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THE  
HISTORICAL JOURNAL:

A MONTHLY RECORD OF  
LOCAL HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY,

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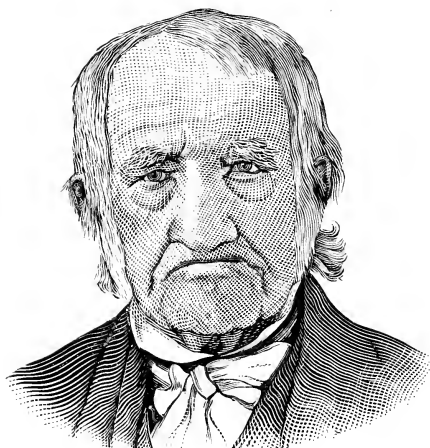
By JOHN F. MEGINNESS,  
("JOHN OF LANCASTER.")

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1888.







**Rev. JOHN BRYSON.**

(AGED 98 YEARS.)

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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## REV. JOHN BRYSON.

BY REV. JOHN PARIS HUDSON.

**A**BOUT the year 1748, as nearly as can be discovered, two brothers named Bryson emigrated to America. Though they came from the north of Ireland, they were of the Scottish race, and their father, it is supposed, had removed from Scotland to Ireland. One of these brothers, Robert Bryson, born in Ireland in 1727, settled in Cumberland county, Pa. The sons of his brother were residents of Youngstown, Ohio, previous to 1819. One of these, Samuel, was an ardent patriot, and a thorough Whig, a member of Congress and an intimate friend of Governor Jeremiah Marrión, of Ohio. Another son, Dr. Hugh Bryson, was a practicing physician. Robert Bryson was married to Esther Quigley, of Cumberland county, Pa. John Bryson, the subject of this narrative, the second son of Robert and Esther Bryson, was born in Allen township, Cumberland county, Pa., January 1, 1758. His brothers were James, William and Samuel. His father died September 29, 1769. His mother, a woman of ardent piety and indomitable energy, was thus left in charge of four small children, and a farm of five hundred acres. She was eminently successful in rearing a pious family and amply providing for their temporal wants. The beautiful old homestead farm near Silvers' Spring Presbyterian Church, descended to William, the third son of Robert, and to his son Robert Bryson, of Harrisburg. John Bryson was the child of many prayers. From a pious and widowed mother, under God, he

received his earliest religious impressions, and that mother lived to see her son a devoted minister of the Gospel. She died at the residence of her son William, at Silvers' Spring, December 4, 1809. His childhood and youth were spent in this lovely valley, in the bounds of Silvers' Spring Church, organized in 1734. The one hundredth anniversary of the laying of the corner stone of the present church building was celebrated August 16, 1883. The large stone church, erected in 1783, is situated a mile and a half from Mechanicsburg, and nine miles from Harrisburg, on a beautiful knoll, in the midst of a lovely grove of oak and walnut trees, within a few rods of a large spring of pure cold water, from which it derived its name, the spring and surrounding lands having been originally owned by Mr. Silvers. In one of the gables of the church is a stone bearing the inscription, "Silvers' Spring Meeting House, erected A. D. 1783."

This ancient church, which he attended in his youthful days, (the graveyard surrounding it, the family burying ground,) has been completely modernized, and with a handsome Memorial Chapel for the use of the Sabbath school, the gift of Colonel Henry McCormick and wife, of Harrisburg, is now a very attractive place of worship. Where the forefathers planted the standard of the Cross one hundred and fifty years ago, children's children of the sixth and seventh generations are worshipping the God of their fathers.

At the age of nineteen years he was drafted as a militiaman under General James Potter, whose division was encamped on the banks of the Schuylkill, west of Philadelphia. While there he took part in a slight skirmish with the British. His term of military service was about six months. His early education was acquired in the schools of the neighborhood; but on his return from his military tour he applied himself diligently to a course of study in preparation for the Gospel ministry. From childhood he had been of a thoughtful turn of mind; but the precise time when he first indulged a hope in Christ, and united with Silvers' Spring Church, is not known by surviving friends. He frequently said that one of the strongest impressions on his mind after his conversion was, "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel."

Mr. Bryson's classical studies were pursued for the most part under the tuition of Rev. James Waddell, D. D., the most cele-



brated pulpit orator of Virginia, (immortalized as the Blind Preacher by the vivid pen of William Wirt in his *British Spy*), and who was the father of Janetta Waddell, the wife of the late Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., of Princeton Seminary, N. J. Dr. Waddell owned a tract of one thousand acres of land, and built his house near the angle of the three counties, Louisa, Orange and Albermarle. His dwelling was in Louisa county, and his estate was named Hopewell.

After finishing the course taught in Dr. Waddell's school, Mr. Bryson took charge of the school and taught it successfully for two years, at the expiration of which he entered Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., and was graduated in three years. His diploma is dated September 26, 1787. The faculty then consisted of Rev. Charles Nisbet, D. D., President; James Ross, Professor of Languages; Rev. Robert Davidson, D. D., Professor of Belles Lettres, and James McCormick, Professor of Mathematics. He was a member of the first class graduated in that venerable institution (then under the care of the Presbyterian Church) and one of the founders of the Belles Lettres society. This society was organized February 22, 1786, by the following persons (with the earnest desire to improve in science and literature): John Boyd, Greensburg; William Spear, Greensburg; John Young, Greencastle; Jonathan Walker, Pittsburg; Matthew Sinclair, James Scott, Baltimore; John Boyse, John Bryson, Cumberland county; Samuel McLain, John McPherson, and Isaac Grier, Franklin county. The following account of the first commencement of Dickinson College is taken from Kline's *Carlisle Gazette and Western Repository of Knowledge*, the first newspaper published in Cumberland county, and the furthest west in the states. The number from which the extract is taken is dated October 3, 1787:

"On Wednesday, the 26th, ultimo, was held the first commencement for degrees in Dickinson College. The trustees having obtained leave to use the Presbyterian church on the occasion, the exercises, with which a crowded assembly of ladies and gentlemen were very agreeably entertained, were exhibited in that large and elegant building. At 10 o'clock in the morning the trustees, professors, and several classes of the students proceeded in order from the college to the church. When all had taken the places assigned them, the President introduced the business of the day with prayer. The following orations were then pronounced: A salutatory in Latin, on the advantages of learning, particularly by a public education, by Mr. John Bryson; an oration on the Excellency of Moral Science, by

Mr. John Boyse; an oration on the importance and advantages of Concord, especially at the present crisis of the United States of America, by Mr. David McKeehan; an oration on Taste, by Mr. Isaiah Blair; an oration on the advantages of an accurate acquaintance with the Latin and Greek classics, by Mr. Jonathan Walker. After an intermission of two hours the following exercises took place: An oration on the nature of Civil Liberty, and the Evil of Slavery and Despotie Power, by Mr. Steele Semple; an oration on the Pleasures and Advantages of the study of History, by Mr. David Watts; an oration on the various and wonderful powers and faculties of the Human Mind, by Mr. James Gettings. Valedictory, by Mr. Robert Duncan."

The degree of Bachelor of Arts was then conferred by the President on the following young gentlemen: John Bryson, John Boyse, David McKeehan, Isaiah Blair, Jonathan Walker, Steele Semple, David Watts, James Gettings and Robert Duncan. After giving a synopsis of the Baccalaureate address by Dr. Nisbet, the newspaper account closes as follows:

"The young gentlemen performed all these exercises with a probity and spirit which did them great honor, reflected much credit upon their teachers, and gave grounds to hope that the sons of Dickinson College will at least equal in useful learning and shining talents those of any other Seminary."

In after years Mr. Bryson was associated with the members of his class in terms of the closest intimacy as they entered the different professions. At the burial of the Rev. Isaac Grier, at Northumberland, in August, 1814, he preached the funeral sermon from Hebrews xi. 14, and referred to his first acquaintance with Mr. Grier, when they attended a classical school, and their intimacy at college, where they boarded together during the years 1786 and 1787.

His theological studies were commenced under the direction of Rev. John King, D. D., of Mercersburg, and Rev. Robert Cooper, D. D., of Middle Spring. He completed these studies under Rev. Dr. Nisbet, in his first class of theological students, which was composed of four members, viz: John Bryson, Isaac Grier, Nathaniel R. Snowden and William Spear. Mr. Bryson was taken under the care of the Presbytery of Carlisle, at Upper Marsh Creek, (Gettysburg,) October 9, 1788, and was licensed to preach the Gospel at Carlisle, October 8, 1789, the same year in which the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church was organized. He was then employed for six months, by appointment of Presbytery, at Martinsburg, and Charlestown, Va. He preached his first ser-

mons, as a licentiate, to the people of his future charge in 1789, at Chillisquaque, on the second Sabbath of November; at Mahoning, (Danville,) on the third Sabbath, and at Warrior Run on the fourth Sabbath of the same month. He traveled on horseback from Harrisburg to Northumberland, and crossed the mountain by a bridle road into the Chillisquaque Valley, to the house of Mr. Thomas Strawbridge, with whom he stopped.

At the meeting of Presbytery held at Big Spring, (Newville,) April 13, 1790, he received an invitation to supply the church at Upper Marsh Creek, (Gettysburg,) and also one from Chillisquaque, Mahoning, (Danville,) and Warrior Run, to supply them for six months. The latter invitation he accepted, and at Falling Spring, (Chambersburg,) October 7, 1790, he received and accepted a call from the united congregations of Chillisquaque and Warrior Run.\* This call is dated June 23, 1790, and signed by 109 heads of families. He was ordained at Carlisle, December 22, 1790. Rev. Charles Nisbet, D. D., preached a sermon suitable to the occasion, and Rev. John Black presided and gave the charge as appointed. He was installed pastor of the churches of Warrior Run and Chillisquaque the second Wednesday of June, 1791.

The earliest authentic history of the churches of Warrior Run and Chillisquaque is found in a manuscript journal of Rev. Philip V. Fithian, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Donegal, who was ap-

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\* The original call is still in a good state of preservation, but somewhat time-stained. Following is a correct copy, with the names of the signers of both congregations: The united Congregation of Chillisquaque and Warrior Run, being on sufficient grounds, well satisfied of the Ministerial Qualifications of you, Mr. John Bryson, Preacher of the Gospel, and having good hopes from our past experience of your Labours that your Ministrations in the Gospel will be profitable to our Spiritual Interests, do earnestly Call and desire you to Undertake the Pastoral office in said Congregation, promising you, in the discharge of your Duty, all proper Support, encouragement and Obedience in the Lord: And, that you may be free from worldly cares, and Avocations, we hereby promise and Oblige ourselves, to pay You the sum of One Hundred and fifty Pounds of Pennsylvania Currency, in Regular yearly payments, During the time of your being, and Continuing the Regular pastor of this Church. In Testimony whereof we have Respectively Subscribed our Names this 23d Day of June in the Year 1790.

Chillisquaque Subscribers: Thos. Hewitt, David Hammond, Jas. McMahan, John Hood, John Montgomery, Wm. McCormick, Wm. Murray, John McMahan, John Murray, Jas. Murray, John Gillespie, Hugh McBride, William Fisher, John Hunter, James Bigger, James Carskaddan, John Alexander, Thos. Murray, Wil-

pointed by his Presbytery to go on a missionary tour through the region embraced by the West Branch Valley. On Sabbath, July 16, 1775, he first preached at Warrior Run. "The meeting house, a log building not yet covered, stood on the bank of the river eighteen miles from Northumberland." Mr. Fithian writes that the congregations were large and attentive, the people coming from all parts of the country, some on horseback and others in canoes. The church in which Mr. Bryson was installed was situated six miles north of Milton, on the state road leading to Muncy, in a lovely grove of forest trees, with a spring of pure water on the grounds. This church was erected in 1789, on land deeded to Warrior Run congregation by Joseph Hutchison. It was a large building with three entrances on the first floor, and two by which the gallery was reached from the outside. The central aisle, and the space before the pulpit was broad, being intended to accommodate the tables where the communicants sat. The pulpit was very high, and over the minister's head was the indispensable sounding board. At the foot of the pulpit stairs was the clerk's desk. The gallery ran around three sides of the building. This house of worship stood directly in front of the present brick church, which was erected in 1833, during Mr. Bryson's pastorate. The church of Chillisquaque appears on the records of the Presbytery of

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liam Allen, Thos. Strawbridge, Robert Rhea, George Hood, Jos. Wilson, Robert McNeill, Thos. Rogers, Wm. McNight, Jas. Sheddan, Wm. McWilliams, Jas. McNight, Wm. Irland, John White, Robert Henry, David Irland, Robert Finney, Thomas Stadden, Neel McMullan, Charles Cochran, John Ray, Wm. Montgomery, Wm. Reed, John Wilson, Nathaniel Wilson.

Warrior Run Subscribers: Wm. Shaw, Sam'l Pollock, Joseph Hutchison, Alla McMath, John Wilson, Joseph Hutchison Smith, James Harrison, Robt. Smith, James McAfee, James Hammond, Andrew Russel, James Welsh, Alex'r Guffy, John Beard, John Barr, Fleming Wilson, Robert Hays, Alexander Stuart, George McKee, Thomas Barr, John Gibbon, William Calhoun, Robert McKee, Robert Cairns, Robert Wilson, Neal McKay, Patrick Blain, Samuel Wilson, Barnabas Farron, Mungo Reid, William Gillmor, John Scott, Thomas McKee, James Wilson, Patrick Dixon, John Ryan, Ralph Smith, William Boyd, Aaron Hemrod, James Blain, William Kirk, John Eson, Guain McConnel, John Watts, John Dearmond, Will'm Miles, James Allison, John Tweed, Jno. Woods, John Montgomery, Jun'r Jas. Miller, Thos. Phillips, Richard Fulkerson, Jas. Anderson, Jas. McNight, Robt. Montgomery, Henry Shouler, Thomas Staar, William Hutchison, James Hays, John Gillilan, James Durham, Robert Creaig, James Mason, William Macklen, Fred'k Taylor, Phillip Davis. Total, 109.

Donegal as early as 1774. The letters patent granted to the trustees, for twelve acres of ground, on which this church stands, are dated September 22, 1774.

The first house of worship erected was a small log building, which was burned by the Indians during the Revolution. The second house of worship, which was unfinished when Mr. Bryson preached his first sermon in it, was the same "white church," enlarged and improved, which was used during his long ministry of half a century. The men of these churches had their places among the officers and in the rank and file of the soldiers of the Revolution. Among the signers of Mr. Bryson's call were Colonel James Murray, a brave and efficient officer, who had served in the army during the eight years of the war. Major James McMahan, who served as a captain throughout the war, and David Hammond, "a soldier of the Revolution."

On the organization of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, by the General Assembly, May 20, 1794, Mr. Bryson was transferred to that Presbytery. He was one of the eleven original members who constituted the Presbytery of Huntingdon, which embraced fifteen counties at its organization. He attended the first meeting of this Presbytery, held in Rev. Mr. Martin's Church in Penn's Valley, on the second Tuesday of April, 1795, and was one of the commissioners appointed at this meeting to represent his Presbytery in the General Assembly, which always met in Philadelphia in those days. While he remained a member of Huntingdon Presbytery, he more frequently represented it in the General Assembly than any other member. He remained in connection with this Presbytery until the formation of the Presbytery of Northumberland, and was one of the five members who constituted that Presbytery at its organization, on the first Tuesday of October, 1811, in the Presbyterian church in the town of Northumberland. The five original members were Revs. Messrs. Asa Dunham, John Bryson, Isaac Grier, John B. Patterson and Thomas Hood.

September 7, 1790, Mr. Bryson was married to Miss Jane Montgomery, daughter of John Montgomery, Sr., of Paradise, Northumberland county. She was then young and blooming, full of vivacity, and retained until near the close of life the stately figure and traces of the beauty which attracted the young minister when

he first visited her father's house. She was the granddaughter of Robert and Sarah Montgomery, who emigrated from the county of Armagh, in Ireland, in 1737, and settled near the site of the present city of Harrisburg. Sarah Montgomery was a member of the Established Church of Ireland. Her certificate of church membership from "the Minister and Church Wardens of the Parish of Ballymore, in the County of Armagh, and Kingdom of Ireland," dated May 14, 1737, is in possession of one of her descendants. John Montgomery, the fifth son of Robert and Sarah Montgomery, and the father of Mrs. Bryson, was born in Ireland, and came to America with his parents when four years of age. He married Christiana Foster, of Lancaster county, and previous to 1770 exchanged his improved farm near Harrisburg for 700 acres of land owned by William Patterson, and called Paradise, in Northumberland (then Berks) county. He made his escape with his wife and children to Harrisburg, on learning of the attack of the British and Indians on Fort Freeland, July 28, 1779, which was four miles from his own residence. He remained at Harrisburg until 1783, when he returned to Paradise and found that all his buildings had been burned by the Indians, but that Captain William Rice and his soldiers, sent to our frontiers in 1779, had built a nice two-story stone building, enclosing his spring, to which he made alterations and improvements, and used it for a dwelling house. This was the Montgomery home for many years.

Mr. Bryson, immediately after his marriage, settled upon and improved the farm known as Long Square, one mile from Warrior Run church. The charter of this tract, containing 298 acres and six per cent. allowance for roads, on the "Warrior Run, in the county of Berks," was granted by Thomas Penn, and Richard Penn, "Free and Absolute Proprietaries, and Governors in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania and counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex upon the Delaware," to John Montgomery, for the consideration of fourteen pounds and eighteen shillings. This charter is signed by John Penn, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, January 6, 1770, and recorded in Philadelphia. The deed for this farm, from the heirs of John Montgomery to John Bryson and Jane, his wife, is dated December 11, 1792. Mr. Bryson afterward purchased from James Murray, (December 20, 1805,) for the consideration of 400 pounds, the farm called Springfield, containing 150

acres of land, with the usual allowance, which must have been considerable, as these farms when afterward surveyed measured considerably more than 500 acres of land. With the duties of his large congregations, and the direction of his tenants, he found abundant employment for his activities.

As early as 1804 his farm, Long Square, was in a high state of cultivation, with everything flourishing around. In 1802 he erected the large stone house, which was then considered a handsome residence, and for the time a very costly one. This home was the abode of an elegant hospitality and a bountiful charity for many years, an ideal minister's home of the olden time, its week day lessons illustrating the domestic peace and cheerfulness of a holy Christian household.

The existence of slavery in Pennsylvania in these early times rendered it necessary for Mr. Bryson, in order to procure servants, to purchase some negroes. "For the consideration of one hundred pounds," he purchased from Richard Robinson, of Shamokin township, Northumberland county, a negro woman named Lydia and her daughter Abigail. This bill of sale is dated November 3, 1801. Dick, the son of Lydia, was born December 12, 1803. From the executors of David Montgomery, of Lower Paxton township, Dauphin county, November 3, 1804, for the consideration of sixty pounds, he purchased a negro boy named Robert, whose age had been entered in the office of the clerk of Dauphin county, "agreeably to the act of Assembly provided." They found in Mr. Bryson a kind and indulgent master, who cared not only for their temporal, but for their spiritual interests. After they were freed by the law of the state they remained in his family. Lydia was the attached nurse of the children. The last survivor of the four was "Robert Hector, generally known as Black Bob," who died near Turbotville, January, 1882, in the eighty-second year of his age. He remained with Mr. Bryson for a number of years after he became free, and when married occupied one of his tenant houses, until he purchased a house and lot near Turbotville, where he resided until his death. He retained until the close of life the strongest affection for his "Old Master," and all the members of his family, saying that it "was a sad day when he became free." He would have preferred to have been his servant as long as he lived.

## STATURE OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.

BY J. W. CLARKE.

AS far back as my recollection goes a general impression has prevailed that the men who composed the American army of the Revolution were mainly great, stalwart fellows, big enough to kill an ox with a single blow of the fist, and then eat him at a couple of meals after he was dead. But a little insight of the actual facts hardly justifies that impression, as the following figures, taken from the muster rolls of the New Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment, (1779-1781, so named to distinguish it from a former Eleventh,) giving the height of 210 of its men, go to show :

Height of Men.	No. of Men.	Height of Men.	No. of Men.
Four feet seven inches.....	1	Five feet six inches.....	32
Four feet nine inches.....	1	Five feet six and a half inches.....	1
Four feet eleven inches.....	1	Five feet seven inches.....	24
Five feet.....	2	Five feet seven and a half inches...	2
Five feet one inch.....	4	Five feet eight inches.....	22
Five feet two inches.....	11	Five feet eight and a half inches...	3
Five feet two and a half inches.....	1	Five feet nine inches.....	13
Five feet three inches .....	19	Five feet nine and a half inches.....	1
Five feet three and a half inches....	2	Five feet ten inches.....	7
Five feet four inches.....	26	Five feet eleven inches.....	8
Five feet four and a half inches....	1	Six feet.....	2
Five feet five inches.....	22	Six feet two inches.....	1
Five feet five and a half inches.....	3	Total.....	210

These rolls embrace nine companies, but the height of all the men is not given. It will be seen that of the 210 whose heights are specified, three measured less than five feet, 94 measured less than five feet six inches, 32 measured just five feet six inches, 83 measured over five feet six inches but less than six feet, two measured just six feet, and only one measured over six feet; and that the average height of the whole 210, if I have calculated correctly, was a slight fraction over five feet five and a half inches. The only one who measured over six feet was Hugh Swords, (a martial name, indeed,) a member of the seventh company, 22 years old, born in Ireland, and by profession a brick-layer. If these 210 men of the New Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment may be taken as a fair criterion, it follows that notwithstanding the wonderful deeds which have given them an imperish-



able place in the history of the world, the men who composed the American armies of the Revolution did not reach a very high average of stature, but rather that toughness of tissue instead of length of legs was what accomplished the work they undertook and so successfully carried through; and as the "Pennsylvania line," of which the New Eleventh Regiment was a part, was often dubbed the "Long-legged line," the inference would seem to be plausible that the rest of the army was composed of men of still shorter average stature, and that the old notion of all being giants in those days, however venerable with age and instilled as a part of youthful education, is hardly sustained by these muster rolls.

Lieutenant-General the Count de Rochambeau, the commander of all the French land forces sent to assist the American army of the Revolution, was also only about five feet six inches in height. But Lieutenant William Feltman says in his journal that the French soldiers were "all very tall men"—possibly by comparison with the Americans.

Of 215 men of the New Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment whose ages are given, three were only 14 years old, one 15 years, four 16 years, eleven 17 years, nine 18 years, six 19 years, seventy-two between 20 and 25 years, twenty-seven between 25 and 30 years, twenty-eight between 30 and 35 years, ten between 35 and 40 years, thirteen between 40 and 45 years, nine between 45 and 50 years, nine between 50 and 55 years, two between 55 and 60 years, and one 60 years old.

The birthplace of 207 men of the regiment is given, of whom 60 were born in America, 41 in England, 89 in Ireland, 6 in Scotland, 10 in Germany, and one in Wales. The small number of German birth may be accounted for by the fact that Pennsylvania furnished a number of military organizations, varying from a company to a battalion, made up almost exclusively of Germans. The German element, foreign and American born, was very large in Pennsylvania's quota of the Revolutionary army.

As illustrations of what the "Pennsylvania line" could do, when the first and second Pennsylvania brigades were called upon to make a forced march, upon the discovery of the treason of Arnold, in order to get possession of an important position before the British could seize it, General Wayne says: "Our march of six-

teen miles was performed in four hours, during a dark night, without a single halt or a man left behind. When our approach was announced to the General, he thought it fabulous." And well he might, whether the men were short-legged or long-legged. Indeed it was a feat that even the members of the "Veteran Corps" of Company G\* might consider well up towards real soldiering. Then again, the New Eleventh Regiment formed a part of General Sullivan's expedition against the Northern Indians, during which it made a march from Sunbury, Pa., to beyond Canandaigua, N. Y., and back again, not to speak of lateral marches; and this through a wilderness without roads, bridges or ferries, but interspersed with plenty of mountain climbing and swamp and stream wading—a feat of walking not to be despised by any soldiers. During that expedition, between the evenings of August 12th and 13th, (1779,) Colonel Hubley, of the New Eleventh, says his regiment was in motion, fighting and marching, for twenty-three consecutive hours, and in that time marched not less than forty miles.

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### THE METEORIC SHOWER OF 1833.

BY J. C. McCLOSKEY, LOCK HAVEN.

THERE are but few persons now living who witnessed the great meteoric shower of 1833. At that time the news was not flashed from one end of the universe to the other in the twinkling of an eye, as it is at the present. Those who saw the strange phenomenon in this county, had no idea that it was being observed in all parts of the globe, and with the slow methods then in use for disseminating information it was weeks before they were any the wiser. That the sight was one of appalling grandeur is vouched for by the few of our oldest residents who were fortunate in being permitted to gaze upon the singular spectacle.

An intelligent old lady gave the writer, a short time before her death, which occurred about one year ago, the following information regarding the great meteoric shower of November 12th, 1833, as witnessed by her at her farm home near this city.

"My husband," she said, "was lumbering up river and had sent one of his men home with a team for supplies. This teamster had

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\*A Williamsport crack company belonging to the Twelfth Regiment, N. G.

risen about two o'clock in the morning to feed and care for his horses in order to get an early start on his return trip. While going to the barn he saw the 'falling stars,' as they were called, and hastily returning to the house, called to us women-folks to get up as quick as possible, that the stars were falling and the judgment day was at hand.

"A single glance from the window convinced us that either his words were true or that some strange phenomenon was taking place. The air seemed to be filled with falling fire, each separate particle of which was apparently as large as the big flakes of snow that sometimes fall on a soft day in winter. The falling fire, or whatever it was, made it as light as when the full moon is shining on a clear night, and looking far up towards the sky we could fix our eyes upon a single one of the falling meteors and trace it until it almost reached the ground, upon which none of them could be seen to alight. Some of the meteors assumed fantastic shapes and our fears were terrible. When we finally calmed ourselves enough to reason together, we found that by fixing our gaze upon the real stars, that were shining brightly in the heavens, we could see that they were not falling. This allayed our fears, and from the moment that discovery was made, we feasted our eyes upon the falling meteors until daylight shut them from our view.

"But few of our neighbors witnessed the strange sight, and those who did not were loth to believe the occurrence as we related it to be real. We, however, were pleased to know, when we saw the newspapers, that the singular phenomenon had been witnessed all over the world, and that we had seen the wonderful sight of that remarkable night of November 12th, 1833."

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THE pretty little borough of Port Allegany, McKean county, located in a nook on the line of the Buffalo, New York and Philadelphia Railroad, is growing and prospering. It already has one large tannery and several smaller enterprises, and now the American Extract Company is preparing to establish works there. The main building will be 136 by 80 feet, and 32 feet high, besides a boiler house, laboratory and office. It is expected to have the works in operation by the first of June. Their capacity will be about thirty cords of bark per day, and from 16 to 24 men will be given employment.

## HON. JOSEPH BILES ANTHONY.

BY F. C. CAMPBELL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

HON. JOSEPH B. ANTHONY was born in Philadelphia, June 19, 1795. At an early age he removed with his parents to New Jersey, where he received his earlier education. His father was a man of means and gave his son a good education, sending him to Princeton College, where he graduated.

While still a young man he came to the West Branch Valley and located in Milton, at which place he studied law under Samuel Hepburn, Esq., and was admitted to the bar. He then went to Ohio, but after an absence of a year returned to Pennsylvania and settled permanently in Williamsport, then a small village. He was admitted to the Lycoming County Bar in 1818. In 1821 he married Miss Catharine Grafius, of Williamsport.

He took an active part in the politics of his day, associating himself with the Democratic party, with whose views he was heartily in accord and whose policy he advocated. He was elected a member of the State Senate in 1830, and served out his term so satisfactorily to his constituents that he was sent to Congress in 1834, and re-elected in 1836. At his last election he was chosen by an unprecedented majority, carrying every township in each county, and every ward in every borough in his district.

During the administration of Governor Porter he was appointed Judge of the Nicholson Court of Pennsylvania, a court established to settle the titles of vast tracts of land in the state. In 1847 he was appointed President Judge of the Eighth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. He continued in the faithful exercise of his duties until the day of his death, and he performed all the duties of his various high offices honestly, faithfully and with distinguished ability.

Judge Anthony was a lover of society, an accomplished scholar, a man of wit, anecdote, brilliant repartee and the soul of the social circle. Possessed of those traits of character which endear us one to another—charitable and generous to a fault—he was beloved by the entire community in which he lived. As a sample of his wit it may be mentioned that while holding court at Danville, at the January sessions of 1846, a man was tried be-

fore him for shooting a valuable setter dog named Logan, the property of Mr. Mercer. The trial excited much merriment, and during the argument the Judge wrote the following stanzas,\* which were quietly dropped on the table for the amusement of members of the bar:

Poor Logan's dead, no more he'll howl,  
 And rend the air with deafening cries,  
 No more he'll *set* for man the fowl,  
 In death's cold lap he lowly lies.

How fondly would he hunt the game,  
 How closely would he scent the *air*,  
 A *setter* known full well to fame,  
 The huntsman's friend! his master's care.

From day to day, from year to year,  
 He roamed the wood, he scour'd the field;  
 From every vicious practice clear,  
 In faithfulness to none he'd yield.

A watchful, trusty, peaceful friend,  
 From quarrel, strife and bickering free;  
 He never failed his aid to lend,  
 But true to huntsman call was he.

In canine veins no drop of blood  
 of "Logan" courses—all his race  
 Is now extinct—in wicked mood  
 Man sent him to his resting place.

As a judge guided by stern integrity of purpose, he distributed even-handed justice with impartiality, whilst his honesty of character won for him the golden opinions of all good men. He died in Williamsport on the 10th of January, 1851, of heart disease, at the comparatively early age of 56 years, six months and twenty-one days, regretted by all who knew him. And as if impressed with a sense of the mutability of this world, his last words were: "*It is folly, it is folly; we must leave it all.*"

His wife, one son and six daughters survived him, but they are now all dead. The daughters married as follows: Elizabeth R. became the wife of John R. Campbell; Martha B., of Hepburn McClure; Catharine G., of Henry White; Mary V., of Dr. Charles L. Lyon; Rachel A., of James B. Montgomery, and Emily, of John Morgan.

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\* Freeze's History of Columbia County.

## METHODISM IN CENTRE COUNTY.

BY JOHN B. LINN, BELLEFONTE.

THE centenary of the Methodist Church in Centre county was marked by the assembling of the Central Pennsylvania Conference in Bellefonte, March 10-15, 1887. No allusion was made to the fact in any of the proceedings of Conference; nevertheless, the first Methodist society was formed in Bald Eagle, at the house of Philip Antes, (now Curtin's Eagle Iron Works, in Boggs township,) in 1787. His daughter Polly, born June 3, 1787, was just four weeks old when Philip Antes, (grandfather of General John Patton, our Congressman-elect,) moved up to the Bald Eagle from Nippenose, and made a home and preaching place for the pioneer circuit riders of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

It antedates the first society in Lycoming county, formed, as stated by Captain A. H. McHenry, of Jersey Shore, Pa., at the home of Ared Sutton on Lycoming creek, in 1791. The name of the first members of the Bald Eagle society that have come down to us are Philip Antes and wife, Christopher Helford, Philip Barnhart, Jacob Lee, Lawrence Bathurst, and their respective families.

Philip Antes died in Clearfield county, August 14, 1831. He was a son of Henry Antes, sheriff of Northumberland county in 1782, and grandson of Rev. Henry Antes. Philip was born at Falkner Swamp (now New Hanover township,) Montgomery county, August 26, 1759, moved to what is now Dauphin county, where he married Susanna Williams and removed to Nippenose. After he sold out to Roland Curtin he removed to Clearfield county. His wife died in Clearfield county May 2, 1826. Their daughter Susan married John Patton, Sr., and is only lately deceased at the age of 93 or 94. She was born at the old mill in Boggs township, May 10, 1791.

Lawrence Bathurst was an old Revolutionary soldier and died in 1848, near Curtin's works, aged 94, upon the farm that had been his home during his entire life in the Bald Eagle Valley. Philip Barnhart's descendants are well known Methodists to this day.

In this connection the following postscript to an old letter I found not long since will be interesting. The letter is from Roland Curtin, father of Ex-Governor A. G. Curtin, to Judge

James Potter, who had a distillery over in Penn's Valley. It is dated March 7, 1803:

"P. S.—The major part of Dunlop's hands are becoming Methodists, which prevents the rapid sale of whiskey I have had in November and December. However, I empty the barrels tolerably fast, and I send a few to Chicklekamouch and Moshannon."

By Dunlop's hands he means the puddlers at Colonel James Dunlop and John Dunlop's forges, adjoining Bellefonte.

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### A VERY OLD HOUSE BURNED.

On the night of March 4th, 1887, a fire occurred in Wayne township, Clinton county, which destroyed a historical building known as the "Big House." It stood on the farm of Edwin Winchester, on the bank of the river, and in early times was a favorite stopping place for travelers passing up and down. The house was built by "Grandfather" Quiggle at an early day. J. F. McCormick, of Nittany Valley, informs the Lock Haven *Express* that it was about 150 years old. The builder was his grandfather, and the mother of Mr. McCormick was born in the house in 1787. She was the youngest of eight children, all of whom were born there. He further says that he thinks the same roof was on the house when it burned that was put on when it was erected. His mother often told him that more than a certain number of windows in a house at that time were subject to taxation, and she knew of some of the windows having been boarded up to avoid paying tax on them. The builder was the first of the name to settle there, and he paid for his land in pounds, shillings and pence. The quaint old deeds are now held by Jacob Stamm. The house was very commodious and had the reputation of being the largest dwelling in Lycoming county, which then covered half a dozen of the present counties. The reminiscences connected with it and its many guests in olden times would fill a volume. It was well built, was the first "log frame" erected in that section, and was provided with a fire-place in every room, up and down stairs. Some of the rooms were highly ornamented in the style of the times. For many years it had been used as an outhouse and tobacco shed. There is much regret that it perished by vandal hands. Tramps are supposed to have fired it.

## THE ANTIQUITY OF PROHIBITION.

Hon. John B. Linn, of Bellefonte, who has, perhaps, made more careful searches among the old records at Harrisburg than any man living in the state to-day, sends THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL this important scrap of early local history :

The country about the mouth of Lycoming creek was, in 1753, the domain of French Margaret, a Canadian, and niece of Madame Montour. Her village site is that now occupied by Newberry proper, in the Seventh ward of Williamsport. It was known as "French Margaret's town," and is so noted on Scull's map of 1759.

In August, 1753, J. Martin Mack, Moravian missionary among the Indians, called upon her, and thereupon writes in his journal :

"At 9 A. M., August 28, Brother Grube and I arrived at French Margaret's. She received us heartily, conducted us to her lodge and set milk and watermelons before us. 'Do you remember me, mother?' I asked. 'I do,' she said, 'but I have forgotten when and where I met you.' 'On the Island below, at Shamokin,' I replied, 'eight years ago.' She at once recalled the occasion of our first meeting and signified her satisfaction at our having traveled so far to visit her.

In the course of conversation, for she was very communicative, she stated that her son and son-in-law had been killed in the winter while on a maraud against the Creeks. On asking permission to deposit our packs with her, until our return from the Delaware town of *Quenischachschocheny*, (Linden,) 'Oh,' said she, 'the Indians there have been drinking hard the past week, and you will likely find them all drunk!'

On our return she gave us a refreshing draught of milk and entertained us with the family news, speaking of Andrew and of her husband, Peter Quebec, who she said had not drank rum within six years. *She has prohibited its use in her town*, and yet although she has initiated other reformatory measures within her little realm, she enjoys the respect and confidence of her subjects."

Williamsport, if it keeps up its ancient reputation, must be the oldest temperance city in the state. How is it about Linden?

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Who was the first postmaster of Newberry? And how long did he serve?

In the record of Pennsylvania marriages, second volume State Archives, second series, page 117, it appears that Jasper Graff and Susannah Mouse were married January 8, 1776. Place of residence not given, but supposed to be in Philadelphia. Whoever heard of a family named Mouse before?



## THE THREE MUNCIES.

Thomas F. Gordon, in his *Gazetteer of Pennsylvania*, published in 1832, fifty-five years ago, thus speaks of the three Muncies in Lycoming county :

Muncy was originally incorporated by the name of Pennsborough, 15th of March 1826; but was again incorporated, and its name and limits changed by act 19th of January, 1827. It has 100 dwellings, 7 stores, 5 taverns, 1 Methodist Church and 1 church common to Episcopalians and Presbyterians, and 500 inhabitants. Within 5 miles of the borough are 7 grist mills and 3 woolen and cotton factories and 5 distilleries, which consume at least 25,000 bushels of grain per annum.

Muncy township. Greatest length 7 miles, breadth 5; area 17,040 acres. Population in 1830, 1,000; taxables 192. Valuation of taxable property in 1829, seated lands, &c., \$40,548; unseated \$5,232, personal estate, \$8,500; rate of levy  $\frac{3}{4}$  of one per cent.

Muncy Creek township. Greatest length 10 miles, breadth 8, area 17,920 acres. Population in 1830 about 800; taxables 179; valuation of taxable property in 1829, seated lands, &c., \$63,461; personal estate, \$7,502.

By comparing the population of that time with the census of 1880 we have the following: Muncy borough, 1,174; Muncy township, 809; Muncy Creek township, 1,709. The population of the borough is probably 1,500 to-day. Muncy township, however, has lost and Muncy Creek has more than doubled. But great advances have been made in the value of property and in the wealth of the people.

## LATITUDE OF WILKES-BARRE.

The following valuable scientific information first appeared in the Wilkes-Barre *Record* of March 17, 1887. The report of four observations to ascertain the latitude are given thus:

41 degrees, 14 minutes, 17 seconds in 1755, as taken by John Jenkins.

41 degrees, 14 minutes, 27 seconds in 1770, as taken by Samuel Wallis.

41 degrees, 14 minutes, 40 seconds in 1787, as given by David H. Conyngham.

41 degrees, 14 minutes, 40.4 seconds in 1881, as taken by second geological survey.

These observations were made at the following points: The third and fourth on the Public Square. The second at Fort Durkee, situate on the bank of the Susquehanna about where the

residence of William L. Conyngham stands. The first at a point unknown.

The distance apart, in a southern direction, would be: the third, 2.4 rods south of the fourth; the second about 80 rods south of the fourth, and the first about 142 rods south of the fourth.

I accept the fourth point of observation as giving the most perfect result, as it was done with modern instruments made expressly for that kind of work, with great care and at large expense, and after many observations, in a house built for the purpose, covering a considerable period of time; while the others were made by common surveyors' compasses in the woods or on the open plain.

The agreement is very close considering the great disadvantages under which the early observers labored. Who made the Conyngham observation it is not stated. He was on a visit to the valley in 1787, and noted in his journal, "Wilkes-Barre is in 41 degrees 14 minutes 40 seconds north latitude."

STEUBEN JENKINS.

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### MOST ECCENTRIC WILL EVER WRITTEN.

Probably the most remarkable will ever made was drawn up by Alderman Hartman, of Pittsburgh, on Thursday, February 17, 1887. The testator, Ambrose Retharge, who is 52 years of age, after disposing of \$10,000 in real estate, directs as follows:

"I direct that my body be taken to St. Michael's Church, and, after the proper religious services are performed, that it be given in charge of my family, who will convey it to Samson's crematory, and there have it burned to ashes, the ashes to be put in a small bottle and given in charge of the German consul in Pittsburgh. This gentleman will then forward my ashes to the consul in New York, who will give them in charge of the captain of the German steamer *Elba*, who will place them securely in his ship for the ocean voyage. When at mid-ocean I direct the captain to request one of the passengers to dress in a seafaring suit and ascend with my ashes in his hand to the top of the topmost mast, and after pronouncing a last benediction, to extract the cork from the bottle and cast its contents to the four winds of heaven. I direct also, while this ceremony is being performed, that it be witnessed by all

passengers on board. After the Elba has completed her trip and returned again to New York, I want a full statement of my death and the scattering of my ashes in mid-ocean published in the Pittsburgh papers, so that my friends in this city shall know my burial place."

---

### NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY IN 1800.

Scott, in his quaint *Geographical Description of Pennsylvania*, published in 1806, gives the following table of the population of Northumberland county, by townships, in 1800.

TOWNSHIPS.	Free.	Slave.
Augusta.....	1,037	5
Beaver.....	1,257	...
Beaver Creek.....	543	...
Bloom.....	806	...
Catawessy.....	1,315	...
Derry.....	1,570	...
Chillisquaque.....	1,098	4
East Buffalo.....	1,982	2
Fishing Creek.....	419	...
Greenwood.....	663	...
Haynes.....	1,387	1
Mahantango.....	1,070	...
Mahanoy.....	1,810	...
Mahoning.....	1,102	...
Mifflin.....	450	...
Miles.....	588	...
Point.....	874	2
Penn's.....	2,309	...
Shamokin.....	1,466	3
Sunbury Borough.....	611	2
Turbet.....	2,364	5
Washington.....	380	...
West Buffalo.....	1,691	1
White Deer.....	977	4
Total.....	27,769	29

At that period many of the townships mentioned were much larger than some counties are to-day. In 1805, according to the same authority, Northumberland county gave on the election for governor 4,457 votes.

## THE LITTLE GRAVE ON THE HILL.

There's a spot on the hillside far away,  
Where in summer the grass grows green ;  
Where, beneath a rustling elm tree's shade,  
A moss-colored stone is seen.  
'Tis a quiet and unfrequented spot,  
A solitude lone and wild ;  
Yet—somebody's hopes are buried there—  
'Tis the grave of a little child.

In winter, alas! that mossy stone  
Is hid 'neath a shroud of snow ;  
But around it, in springtime, fresh and sweet,  
The daisies and violets grow ;  
And o'er it the summer breezes blow  
With a fragrance soft and mild,  
And the autumn's dead leaves thickly strew  
That grave of a little child.

And every year there's a redbreast comes,  
When the month of May is nigh,  
And builds her nest in this quiet spot,  
'Mid the elm tree's branches high ;  
With her melody sweet, by the hour she thrills,  
And if by the scene beguiled,  
Perhaps—who knows? 'tis an angel comes  
To the grave of that little child.

Yes, somebody's hopes lie buried there,  
Some mother is weeping in vain,  
For, though years may come and years may go,  
'Twill never come back again.  
Yet blessed are they who die in youth  
The pure and the undefiled ;  
Some road to Heaven, perchance, runs through  
That grave of a little child.

---

ACCORDING to Joseph Scott's *Geographical Description of Pennsylvania*, published in 1806, Bellefonte only "contained forty dwelling houses" in 1800. Bald Eagle and Patton townships had 1,534 inhabitants, and Potter township had 1,170. This same curious old book says that the only township in Warren county at that time was Oil Creek, and it had 130 inhabitants. "Eric had about 100 houses, a court house and jail," and there was one slave in the county.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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Two Dollars per Annum, in Advance. Single Numbers, Twenty Cents.

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A monthly publication, devoted entirely to the preservation of scraps of local history in Northwestern Pennsylvania, with reference occasionally to statistics, finance and manufactures.

Address all letters and communications relating to literary matters, subscription or advertising to

JOHN F. MEGINNESS, *Editor and Publisher*,  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

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WILLIAMSPORT, MAY, 1887.

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## TO THE READER.

THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL is started for the purpose of collecting and preserving fragments of local history, which, if not put in a permanent form, will soon be lost forever. Special attention, therefore, will be given to gathering incidents of early times, reminiscences of pioneers, Indian antiquities, necrology and longevity. Statistics and manufactures will also receive some attention. The chosen field is a comprehensive one, as it embraces the charming valley of the West Branch of the Susquehanna, the romantic region of the Juniata and the Northwestern counties of the state. This great district is rich in historical events associated with the advancing column of civilization more than a century ago, as it gradually forced the original occupants of the soil over the mountain barriers and on towards the setting sun.

As the price of subscription has been placed low, in order to bring the publication within the reach of all, the publisher does not expect to reap any great pecuniary reward, but his work will be more a "labor of love" than of profit. But if those who are interested in rescuing from oblivion much of our local history will aid in the enterprise with their patronage, their voice and their influence, a mass of material can be gathered and put on record which, if it does not seem of great value to us, may be of inestimable value to our posterity.

The announcement of the monthly has been received with a warmth of welcome from the press which was wholly unexpected.

That there is an increasing taste among the people for that which improves the mind, and therefore carries it to a higher plane of intelligence and refinement, is apparent to the most casual observer. In this category may be classed a desire to read and preserve local history. This, in a large measure, may be attributed to the quiet but irresistible influence of that mighty educator, the press. And viewed in this light it is not strange, perhaps, that our humble project should be so encouragingly received. Another evidence of this is found in the kindly offers of many persons to contribute valuable matter for publication pertinent to the subject.

The first number of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL can hardly be regarded as a fair sample of what it will be, until fairly under way, as a new publication is always attended with some drawbacks.

It now remains for the interested to make the enterprise a success, by making it self-sustaining. And in this connection we would impress upon all the fact that Time, the remorseless destroyer, moves on ceaselessly like the rippling current of a river, and halts not to preserve the works of man nor the records of his deeds. Nowhere is this sentiment more beautifully illustrated than in the eloquent words of Taylor, in his Long Ago, when he says:

A wonderful stream is the River Time,  
As it runs through the realms of Tears,  
With a faultless rhythm and a musical rhyme,  
And a broader sweep, and a surge sublime  
As it blends with the ocean of Years.

If the aid which is promised is forthcoming, there will be reason to believe that our labors will not be wholly in vain; that all our history will not be quickly buried beneath the ever flowing stream which is finally swallowed up in the Gulf of Eternity.

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ACCORDING to the Addison *Record*, Mrs. V. B. Wetmore, of Canisteo, has in her possession an old family heirloom in the shape of a rocking chair that is 130 years old. It was originally the property of her great-grandmother, who lived in Revolutionary times. The children for five generations have been lulled to sleep in this "old wooden rocker," and it is still in a good state of preservation, waiting to do the same service for future generations.

## BUSINESS OF TWENTY-TWO NATIONAL BANKS.

Few persons are aware of the extent of the National banking business in Williamsport. At the close of business on the 4th of March the city banks reported their condition to the comptroller at Washington as follows:

BANKS.	Loans.	Deposits.	Capital.	Surplus.	Undivided Profits.
West Branch.....	\$643,355 45	\$732,189 39	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$66,631 55
First National.....	613,248 90	479,041 05	284,950	100,000	35,256 40
Williamsport National.....	317,771 72	314,383 85	100,000	100,000	7,231 85
Lumberman's National.....	266,237 88	194,587 04	100,000	30,000	10,643 98
Lycoming National.....	344,125 06	329,289 07	100,000	61,000	940 19
Total.....	\$2,184,739 01	\$2,049,490 40	\$684,950	\$391,000	\$120,703 97
December statement.....	2,175,587 90	2,071,633 86	684,950	362,000	144,917 82
Difference.....	\$9,151 11	\$22,143 46		\$29,000	\$24,213 85

The totals show an increase in loans of \$9,151.11 as compared with the exhibit for December last, and a decrease in deposits of \$22,143.46. The loans exceed the deposits in the present statement by \$135,248.61. The two national banks of Muncy report their condition as follows:

BANKS.	Loans.	Deposits.	Capital.	Surplus.	Undivided Profits.
First National.....	\$163,406 90	\$162,878 51	\$100,000	\$11,700	\$6,164 10
Citizens National.....	71,532 35	53,105 72	\$50,000	11,300	3,635 17
Total.....	\$234,939 25	\$215,984 23	\$150,000	\$23,000	\$9,799 27
December statement.....	208,347 87	165,675 41		11,300	13,969 58
Difference.....	\$26,591 38	\$150,308 82	\$150,000	\$11,700	\$4,170 31

By adding the totals of the Williamsport and Muncy banks we have the following result:

BANKS.	Loans.	Deposits.	Capital.	Surplus.	Undivided Profits.
Williamsport banks.....	\$2,184,739 01	\$2,049,490 40	\$684,950	\$391,000	\$120,703 97
Muncy banks.....	234,939 25	215,984 23	150,000	23,000	9,799 27
Total for the county.....	\$2,419,678 26	\$2,265,474 63	\$834,950	\$414,000	\$130,503 24
December statement.....	2,383,939 77	2,237,309 27	834,950	342,000	158,887 10
Difference.....	\$35,738 49	\$28,165 36		\$72,000	\$28,383 86

In this aggregate the loans and deposits show an increase as compared with the December statement, whilst there is a falling off in the surplus and undivided profits. Consolidated, the deposits, capital, surplus and undivided profits show a total of \$3,644,927.87.

On the 4th of April Messrs. Cochran, Payne & McCormick

opened a bank in the splendid new building on the corner of Fourth and William streets. They have experience, a capital of \$250,000, and will do a general banking business. Preparations are also being made to start a Merchant's National bank, with a capital of \$100,000, in the building on the corner of Third and Pine streets. This will give Williamsport six national and two private banking houses, in addition to her Savings Institution, which is a large and thrifty house.

Beginning at Sunbury and counting the national banks of Lewisburg, Milton, Watson town, Muncy, Williamsport, Towanda, Canton, Wellsboro, Lock Haven, Bellefonte, Clearfield and Emporium, we have a total of twenty-two. They made the following exhibit in their 4th of March statements:

BANKS.	Loans.	Deposits.	Capital.	Surplus.	Undivided Profits.
Total Williamsport banks.....	\$2,184,739 01	\$2,049,490 40	\$684,950	\$391,000	\$144,917 82
First National, Sunbury.....	154,812 44	623,535 25	200,000	40,000	72,497 19
Lewisburg National.....	220,832 46	409,210 33	100,000	100,000	7,707 07
Union Bank, Lewisburg.....	165,155 13	126,802 86	100,000	15,500	7,808 44
First National, Milton.....	202,625 16	160,352 45	100,000	42,500	5,995 40
Milton National.....	225,964 52	146,327 94	100,000	64,000	7,213 28
Watson town National.....	126,885 72	128,998 15	60,000	20,500	4,573 30
Farmers Nat'l, Watson town.....	63,598 66	54,752 52	50,000	2,000	1,089 79
First National, Muncy.....	163,406 90	162,878 51	100,000	11,700	6,164 10
Citizens National, Muncy.....	71,532 35	53,105 72	50,000	.....	3,635 17
First National, Towanda.....	654,285 85	672,876 50	125,000	100,000	19,053 53
Citizens National, Towanda.....	395,246 03	337,854 81	150,000	30,000	4,783 70
First National, Canton.....	113,365 83	92,194 01	50,000	10,000	2,195 70
First National, Wellsboro.....	263,196 63	314,122 50	100,000	50,000	62,123 77
First National, Lock Haven.....	566,766 76	451,802 97	180,000	100,000	21,008 69
First National, Bellefonte.....	423,515 33	411,415 27	100,000	50,000	15,715 39
County National, Clearfield.....	440,101 12	430,038 43	100,000	70,000	6,757 22
First National, Emporium.....	85,352 37	73,797 67	50,000	.....	8,397 60
Total.....	\$6,621,282 27	\$6,701,556 29	\$2,399,950	\$1,097,200	\$401,631 16

In the above table it will be observed that the largest deposits reported by any one bank is by the West Branch of Williamsport, which are \$732,189.39. The next largest is the First National of Towanda, which reports \$672,876.50 on deposit, and the third by the First National of Sunbury, \$623,535.25. It may be curious to note that the consolidated deposits, capital, surplus and undivided profits of these twenty-two national banks foot up a grand total of \$10,607,343.45, showing an excess over loans of \$3,979,061.18. This is certainly a splendid financial exhibit for comparatively a small section of the state, much of which is very mountainous. It shows the resources of the people, which are mainly derived from manufacturing. And if the business of the



state and private banks in this district were embraced in the statement, the totals would be swollen at least a million and a half more.

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### NOTES ON LOCAL BOOKS.

A FEW years ago David Wilson, of Union City, Erie county, published a neat little pamphlet of fifty pages, entitled *Olden Times*, which gives a history of the settlement of Union township and vicinity. It contains many interesting reminiscences of pioneer days.

D. MASON & Co., of Syracuse, N. Y., have in course of publication separate histories of Warren, Clearfield, Clarion and Jefferson counties. Messrs. Warner, Beers & Co., of Chicago, histories of Franklin, Montour and Columbia, Bucks and Beaver counties.

MR. C. F. HILL, of Hazleton, contemplates writing a history of that region of the Susquehanna lying between Berwick and Sunbury. He has accumulated much information as to early times in that section, which will be valuable.

THE Political Handbook of Berks County, by Morton L. Montgomery, a member of the Bar, is a local work of great value. It is complete in all its statistics and historical facts within its scope from 1752 to 1883.

REV. DR. LOGAN has written a History of the Scranton City Guard, which will soon be issued from the press. It will deal with a stirring period of Scranton's history.

W. S. MONROE is writing a historical and critical work on The Poetry of Wyoming for the Scranton *Argus*. It will run through several numbers of that paper.

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WE take pride in saying that among the earliest voluntary subscribers to THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL were Governor James A. Beaver, Secretary of the Commonwealth Charles W. Stone, and Adjutant General D. H. Hastings. Subscribers have also been received from as far away as Colorado and Washington Territory.

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THE June number of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL will contain a biographical sketch and portrait of the late Judge J. K. Whitmore, of Ridgway, Elk county.

## NOTES ON NEWSPAPERS.

IN June, 1868, J. M. M. Gernerd started a bright little paper in Muncy called *Now and Then*. It was devoted to collecting and preserving local history, and was exceedingly interesting and valuable. After appearing, as its title indicated, until February, 1878, it was discontinued, much to the regret of a large circle of readers. Nineteen numbers were published.

MR. J. B. G. KINSLOE, editor and publisher of the *Clinton Republican*, Lock Haven, (the oldest and largest weekly in Clinton County,) celebrated the 67th anniversary of his birth April 5th. He is a veteran printer and editor, and his friends unite in wishing him many more returns of his anniversary.

MR. C. B. GOULD, editor and publisher of the *Cameron County Press*, is one of the oldest editors in this part of the state. He established his present paper twenty-one years ago, and he had been in the harness long before that time in other places.

THE *Orbisonia Star*, Huntingdon county, is about the size of a lady's lace *mouchoir*, and it is just as delicately made up. Two bright little girls edit it, and the dainty little thing is delightful to look upon.

THE *Miltonian* was established in 1816 by General Frick. In the 71 years of its existence it has passed through many hands. It is now edited and published by Joe Logan.

A LITTLE paper called *The Popgun* was started at Laporte, Sullivan county, in 1868, by C. F. King. It soon popped out.

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HON. C. D. ELDRÉD, who resides just outside of the borough limits of Muncy, on the highway leading to Milton, reports that he recently found in the cellar of his residence several specimens of glass made at the works at Lewis Lake. They are about 7 by 6 and made after the form of "bull's eye" glass. Nearly all traces of the glass works founded at the lake by George Lewis a hundred years ago have disappeared, and handsome cottages will soon occupy the site. The house in which Mr. Eldred lives was built 74 years ago by George Webb, a Quaker, and, as he expresses it, "was an honestly built brick residence," as it is still firm and good for many more years to come.

## NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

THE oldest man in Lycoming county to-day—so far as known—is Adam Hart, of Clinton township. He was born at Turbotville, Northumberland county, May 6, 1788, and is within a few days of being 99. He is in good health, is quite active, and converses intelligently about events of the long, long ago.

SAMUEL TITUS was born November 27, 1795, on what is known as the Dr. Charles Lyon farm, on Loyalsock creek, a short distance above Montoursville, and came to Williamsport when he was one year old. He is in his 92d year and has lived in Williamsport for 90 years. For many years he has been deaf, but otherwise he enjoys good health, reads the daily papers and loves to tell an anecdote.

Another old resident of Williamsport is Renben Derby. He was born in Windom, Connecticut, March 21, 1794, and has just completed his 93d year. Mr. Derby first came to Williamsport in 1837, fifty years ago, but he has not been a resident of the place all that time. He resides with his daughter, Mrs. Ayres, enjoys good health, reads the papers regularly and loves to converse with his friends.

JOHN KING, of Piatt township, is one of the oldest native residents of Lycoming county. He is in his 93d year, having been born July 5, 1794. For 64 years he has lived within half a mile of his birth place, which he left when he married. His wife died November 13, 1865. He is almost totally blind and quite feeble.

ACCORDING to the Lock Haven *Daily Democrat*, John Delong, of Sugar valley, Clinton county, is in his 95th year, but to look at him one would suppose that he was not more than 60. He can read without spectacles and has his third set of teeth. Mr. Delong has been a noted man for years, and at the present time he is engaged in a business which calls for much traveling about the country. This is indeed remarkable, and it is doubtful if the venerable gentleman has his equal in the United States.

HENRY ROYER, of Rebersburg, Centre county, recently closed his 91st year. He attends church regularly on Sundays and is able to stroll about town and chat with his neighbors. He is a remarkably active man for his age.

## RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

MAJOR WILLIAM POWER ELLIOTT, of Lewistown, Mifflin county, died April 2, 1887, aged 94 years, 2 months and 18 days. He was born at Lewistown, January 12, 1793. He commenced learning the trade of a printer in 1807, and in 1811 founded the *Juniata Gazette*, which he edited and published for a number of years. At the time of his death it was believed that he was the oldest living editor and printer in the world. He served in the war of 1812, was near by, on detached service, when the battle of the Thames was fought, and distinctly remembers hearing the sound of Perry's guns when he gained his victory over the British fleet on Lake Erie. Major Elliott knew Simon Girty, the white renegade, and once visited him in his cabin near Malden. He was married in 1814, and his wife died 13 years ago, aged 77. They had 14 children, 11 sons and 3 daughters, and out of that number only one daughter and two sons survive. The editor of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL visited him in February last and wrote a two column interview, which was published in the *Gazette and Bulletin* of February 14th. He found the veteran in an excellent condition of mind, and he talked freely of old times and related many personal reminiscences of the distinguished men he had met three quarters of a century ago.

MRS. HANNAH TALLMAN, who died at Pennsville, Lycoming county, March 20, 1887, aged 93 years, 11 months and 6 days, was in many respects a remarkable lady. Her life extended back to the very days of the pioneers, and she witnessed many marvelous changes and improvements. The Muncy *Luminary*, in sketching her life, says:

Mrs. Tallman, who was the fourth child of Jacob and Hannah Clayton, was born at Wilmington, Del., April 14, 1793. In 1794 her father moved to Little Fishing creek, where he remained until 1805, when he moved to Big Muncy, purchasing a tract of land from William Hurl. Mr. Clayton soon began the erection of a dwelling house and grist mill. On December 20, 1815, Hannah Clayton was married to Daniel Tallman, and they immediately moved to Williamsport, where they lived until 1837, when they returned to the Muncy Valley, purchasing land from Mercy Ellis in Muncy Creek township, the property being now owned by Mathew Tallman's heirs, and in close proximity to where her husband resided and died in 1864, aged 73 years. Mrs. Hannah Tallman was the mother of ten children, of whom five are living: Dr. William Tallman, of Tullytown, Bucks

county; Jeremiah Tallman, of Turbotville; Amos Tallman, of near Pennsville; Mrs. Dr. Tomlinson, of Montoursville, and Mrs. Salina Webster, of Pennsville. About twenty-five grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren survive to cherish her memory.

MRS. LYDIA ROUSH, widow, of Freeburg, Snyder county, died March 31, 1887, aged 82 years and 2 months. She was buried in the old cemetery one and one-half miles north of the town, where the ancient graves are almost invisible from lack of attention, having for years past been covered with weeds and moss. Mrs. Roush was a native of Mahanoy township, Northumberland county, where she was born January 31, 1805. She was the oldest and last to die of eleven brothers and sisters. Her descendants numbered 173, of which twenty have departed this life.

MRS. CATHARINE DETWEILER, of Mifflinburg, Union county, died March 24, 1887, aged 94 years and 15 days. She is supposed to have been the oldest person in that county. Mrs. Detweiler was born in Lebanon March 9, 1793, and married in Mifflinburg to John Detweiler May 2, 1822. Her husband died December 22, 1880. She resided with her son Reuben and daughter Susan in the old homestead, where she had lived for 62 years continuously. Another daughter, Mrs. Carskadden, is a resident of Lock Haven.

WILLIAM RITCHIE, who died in Lock Haven, March 12, 1887, was born in Bald Eagle Valley, July 28, 1806. He was, therefore, 80 years, 7 months and 14 days old at the time of his death. The greater portion of his life was spent on his farm near Dunns-town. The Lock Haven *Express*, from which these facts are gleaned, says that he served 15 years as a school director in Woodward township, overseer of the poor for eight years, and he was for many years collector of all taxes assessed in his township.

JOHN P. SUMMERS died in Milton, March 12, 1887, aged 81 years, 7 months and 11 days. He was born in Philadelphia, July 29, 1805, and had lived in and about Milton for 53 years. Five children survive him, four daughters and one son. Their names, in the order of their ages, are: Mrs. Samuel Follmer, Milton; Mrs. Amanda Kase, Bellville, Ill.; John A. Summers, Milton; Mrs. Notestein, Milton; Mrs. Truckenmiller, Milton.

SENECA FREEMAN, whose death is reported by the *Cameron County Press* as occurring at his home in Emporium on the 9th

of February, 1887, aged 92 years, was a resident of Wayne county for a long time, where he followed the business of lumbering. As early as 1817 he removed to the present site of Emporium, but soon afterwards went to live in what is now Potter county. In 1839 he returned to his old home, where he resided up to the time of his death.

MRS. MARY McEVOY, who died in Lancaster Monday evening, April 4th, had almost rounded out the phenomenal age of 103 years. She was born in Ireland and came to this country at an early age. Nearly her whole life was spent in Lancaster. She remembered distinctly the stirring scenes and incidents of the Irish revolution of '98, and up to the last her memory never failed her.

MICHAEL SWARTZ, who died at his home in the borough of Beech Creek, Clinton county, on the 4th of April, 1887, was in the 96th year of his age. He leaves 11 children, 35 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.

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GORDON, in his quaint old *Gazetteer* of 1832, says: "Williamsport, value of taxable property in 1829: real estate, \$26,034; personal, \$14,744. About 150 dwellings, 1 German Lutheran and 1 Methodist church, neat court house and county offices of brick, 8 stores and 8 taverns."

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THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL is anxious to gather returns of elections held in Lycoming county previous to 1840. Any one having such returns will confer a favor by sending them in.

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IN announcing the early appearance of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL, the Jersey Shore *Herald* says: "Every man in the West Branch Valley should encourage this commendable enterprise."

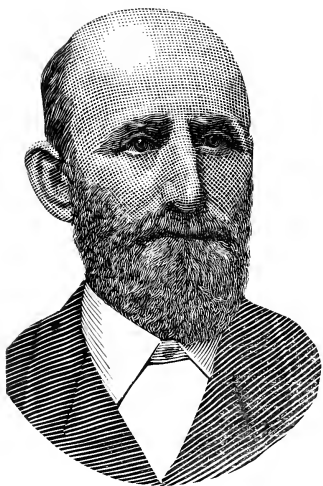
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JEFFERSON county has a Pine creek, but it is not as large as the Pine creek which separates Clinton from Lycoming county. The latter is a mountain river.

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AT the October election, 1808, Lycoming county gave Simon Snyder, for governor, 702 votes; Ross, Federalist, none.





**Hon. J. K. WHITMORE,**

(AGED 55 YEARS.)



# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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"Out of monuments, names, wordes, proverbs, traditions, private records, and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of bookes, and the like, we doe save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time."—BACON.

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## HON. J. K. WHITMORE, OF RIDGWAY.

JUDGE JOSEPH K. WHITMORE, the subject of this sketch,\* was a true Pennsylvanian, and "to the manor born." His birth occurred September 27, 1832, in a little hamlet nestled among the hills of what was, at that time, Armstrong County, but by division has since been added to Clarion. His father was John Whitmore, Esq., a well known farmer, who never left the old homestead, remaining there until 1875, when, at an advanced age, he was called by the Master of the Vineyard to give an account of his stewardship. Mrs. Whitmore, his mother, still resides with a son, at the old home, in good health, and has reached and passed her eightieth mile-stone on the earthly pilgrimage. To-day dreaming by the old hearthstone, her thoughts are of the past and of the future, both sad and hopeful. Stirring the smoldering embers of the dead past, bright sparks of a glorious hope fly upward to the skies.

Joseph was one of a family of eight children, all of whom

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\*To the courtesy of the Elk *Democrat* THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL is indebted for this sketch and portrait of deceased. In referring to the life and character of deceased that paper says: "In the exalted work of the church, in the politics of state, in the feverish circles of business, and in pleasurable associations, Judge Whitmore acted with prominence. Church, state, business, society, in his death have suffered a loss. A widowed wife, fatherless children and near relatives, it is true, bear quite alone a peculiar burden of unmeasurable sorrow; they, more than all others, appreciate his loss, but he being a man of affairs, belonged to the community as well, and hence a large circle of people stand with uncovered heads."

lived to reach maturity. His early years were spent on the old farm in active duties, for the Whitmores were an industrious family, and in that day much of the labor was done without machinery. In the winter season young Whitmore trudged for a few weeks to a neighboring school of the old type, and received instructions in the rudimentary branches, but at this time fortune frowned. Clarion County coveted a part of Armstrong, and got it; the division line took in the Whitmores, but not the seat of learning, and the Armstrong County people refused to let those set over in Clarion attend the school after the division, hence it was that young Whitmore was deprived of every opportunity to become educated in boyhood. To this circumstance he often referred in after life. Nothing daunted, however, he sought employment for the winter in a grist mill, having tastes for that kind of work, and giving his attention to farming in summer with his father and brothers, he thus toiled ahead until one day he reached his majority, and "struck out" for himself. He went to Richardsville, Jefferson County, and while there sought the hand of, and married in September, 1854, a daughter of James Moorhead, of Brockwayville, and then located in that place a few months later, when his young wife, who was of rather delicate constitution, was prostrated by a severe attack of typhoid fever, under which she slowly sank and finally died in January, 1855. A little later, Mr. Whitmore resolved to add to his limited education, and entered Alfred University at Alfred Centre, N. Y., where he attended for two terms, working hard, and as a result he became fairly educated. In September, 1859, he went to Ridgway and went into the employ of Hyde & McVean as clerk. Here he at once exhibited those qualities of business tact, of carefulness and accuracy, of sterling integrity, which have ever since characterized the man. Since that day to the day of his death, except two years, he had been in some way or other, either working for, or in partnership with J. S. Hyde, one of his first employers on going to Ridgway. No doubt Mr. Hyde, who is one of the acutest observers of men, saw in him the first time they met a person to whom he could tie; in short, in whom he could place implicit confidence. He served for him as clerk, superintendent of mills and in various other capacities, for more than twenty-five years. The service he rendered was highly appreciated and will not be forgotten.

On the 7th day of January, 1862, he married Mrs. Diana L. Prindle, widow, with three children, one dying one year after marriage: the others, Martha, wife of Edward W. Maybee, and Page, both looked to him as a father. To Mr. and Mrs. Whitmore were born seven children, five of them being boys and two girls. Four of the boys died in infancy, John G., aged 21 years, a student at law in the office of Hall & McCauley, in Ridgway, being the survivor. The girls are both living, the oldest, Kittie A., is the wife of the Deputy Prothonotary of Elk County, H. C. Kime, and Essie, a girl of fourteen summers, resides at home.

In 1872 he built a fine residence on Centre Street in Ridgway, which he still owned at the time of his death. In 1878 he moved to Eagle Valley Mills, owned by J. S. Hyde, where he still resided when the solemn summons came to "give an account of his stewardship, that he could no longer be steward."

In 1866 Mr. Whitmore was chosen Justice of the Peace of Ridgway, for the term of five years, which position he filled with his usual candor and sense of right between man and man.

In 1871 he was appointed Associate Judge by Governor Geary, to fill the vacancy caused by the removal from the county of Judge Schultz.

In 1876 he was again appointed to the Judgeship, and that time by Governor Hartranft, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of J. V. Houk.

In addition to these important official positions, he served at times as director of schools, township treasurer, municipal clerk, township auditor, and in other capacities. His services were always sought for. As an official he leaves an unsullied record.

Few men, if any, in Elk County were more robust or hardy than Judge Whitmore. He knew little of sickness, and it was not until the spring of 1886 that he thought it worth while to pay attention to his own ailments. At that time he came to the conclusion that he was troubled with piles, and for this disease he was treated at home. Getting little relief, he sought the skill of specialists in Bradford, York, and other places, but only temporary relief was obtained; in fact, in spite of all efforts, the disease was gaining on him. About this time his home physicians decided that his malady was a cancerous affection of the bowels, and advised

that he be taken to Dr. Samuel Gross for examination. This was done in December last, and Dr. Gross at once confirmed the opinion of the local physicians, and that to cure him was impossible. What he had already suffered no pen can describe. He had borne it all, however, with a patient mind, but all the time had been buoyed up by the hope that he would finally regain his health. When told that there was no help for him, he was greatly surprised, but with a wonderful firmness, he watched the star of hope as it sank below the horizon to rise no more. He returned to die, and to him the death angel came as a welcome messenger at 45 minutes past 12 o'clock, on Wednesday, March 23, 1887. A little after the noon of his life his sun set, for he was only in his 55th year. For sixteen days he had taken no nourishment whatever, except two glasses of milk punch. He was cheerful, very cheerful, to the last, frequently calling his friends around him to say a friendly parting word.

He made a full preparation for his departure, making disposition of his property, advising his family in regard to their future, and left several requests with reference to his burial. He died in the faith that Christ was his Saviour, and that "when this house of his earthly tabernacle were dissolved, he had a building of God, a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens." He and his wife were members of the Congregational Church, having united with that organization on confession of faith, in 1882.

The funeral services were held on Friday afternoon, March 25th, and were attended by throngs of people. It was the largest week day funeral probably ever witnessed in Ridgway. At about 1 P. M. about seventy Free Masons gathered in their Lodge room at the head of Main Street, and with impressive ceremony paid tributes of respect to the deceased brother, who had been called home by the Grand Master of the Universe.

After these ceremonies the Masons in white gloves, blue ribbons and bearing evergreen twigs, marched to the residence of the deceased, where a short service was held by the Rev. Mr. Bostwick, of the Congregational Church. From the residence all went to church, where a very earnest sermon was preached from the favorite chapter of the deceased, viz., the 14th chapter of St. John. The pulpit was laden with emblematic plants, and on the

beautiful casket were two floral offerings, the one from the family—a pillow resting on an easel, and on the pillow was the word “Father;” the other was from the Elk Lodge, No. 379, F. & A. M., and consisted of a large cross with compass and square at the base. These designs were elegantly wrought in appropriate flowers. In Pine Grove Cemetery the Masonic fraternity closed the exercises, by most impressive rites committing the body to the dust, and soul to God, the great Master Builder of the Universe.

“To die is landing on some silent shore,  
Where billows never break nor tempests roar;  
Ere well we feel the friendly stroke, 'tis o'er.”

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## REV. JOHN BRYSON.

BY REV. JOHN PARIS HUDSON.

**M**R. BRYSON possessed a mind formed for profound and accurate investigation. He studied the Greek and Latin classics with great care, and always insisted upon a knowledge of classical literature as the basis of a liberal education. He was very fond of teaching, and soon after his settlement at Warrior Run received young men into his family under private instruction. One of these, Rev. John Hutchison, the honored pastor of Mifflintown Presbyterian Church, he prepared to enter Dickinson College. In 1802, as nearly as can be ascertained, he opened a classical school, which he continued for some years. The young men who entered his family and were taught by him went forth to usefulness, and some indeed to distinction. Among his earlier pupils were Rev. A. K. Russel, of Newark, Delaware, whom he prepared to enter Washington College, Pa., and Rev. William S. Reid, D. D., of Lynchburg, Va., whom he prepared to enter Hampden Sidney College, Va. In 1817 he again resumed his school, which he taught successfully for several years. He numbered among his pupils, Rev. John Graham, D. D., Ohio; James McCormick, Esq., Harrisburg, (whom he prepared for Yale College); Robert Bryson, Harrisburg; Hon. John G. Montgomery, Danville; William Gallaher, M. D., Philadelphia; Fleming Montgomery, M. D., and Hugh Montgomery, M. D., Muncy; David Hunter, M. D.; his eldest

son, John M. Bryson, and in later years his youngest son, Rev. Robert Bryson. His pupils were strongly attached to him, and felt themselves throughout life indebted to him for the direction of their studies, and the moulding of their character.

Soon after his settlement at Warrior Run, on application of the Presbyterians of Danville, he preached every third or fourth Sabbath in that town. But his congregations becoming dissatisfied after a time, he withdrew, and preached occasionally at Danville until they secured a pastor. This kindness of Mr. Bryson was followed with happy results. The Presbyterians of Danville were prepared and strengthened for settling a minister, and through the influence and exertions of Mr. Bryson, Rev. John B. Patterson was called by them, and long and successfully served as pastor of Mahoning Church, Danville.

As the boundaries of the congregations of Warrior Run and Chillisquaque met and overlapped each other at Milton, Mr. Bryson, after he ceased preaching regularly at Danville, made Milton one of his outposts, where he statedly preached on every alternate Sabbath. After preaching twice at Chillisquaque, his custom was to go to Milton and hold a third service, thus accommodating his members who were not able to attend their respective places of worship in the morning. He continued to preach statedly at Milton until December, 1811, a period of eighteen years, when from the increase of population it became necessary to organize a congregation. He was succeeded at Milton by Rev. Thomas Hood in October, 1812. Mr. Bryson was a man of untiring energy, through the grace of God, a laborious and zealous minister of the glorious Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In the earlier years of his pastorate, when he was the only minister of the Presbyterian Church in the forks of the Susquehanna, in addition to his regular services, he often preached on week days at different points in Columbia County, and different places on the West Branch. Under his long and faithful ministry of the Word, his regular annual family visitations, catechising the children and youth, attending prayer meetings, &c., his charge was favored repeatedly with times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

His ministry covered a period the most remarkable in the history of the American Church, a period of wonderful develop-

ment in Christian thought and energy, and prolific in societies and agencies for the good of men and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom; societies for the promotion of missions at home and abroad, of temperance, of education, of Sabbath school instruction, of tract and Bible societies and the Colonization Society. Mr. Bryson, in advance of many of the ministers of his day, threw himself with ardor and enthusiasm into these movements. Weekly prayer meetings were established at different points in his congregations, which were well attended. At different periods they were sustained by the young men of the congregations preparing for the Gospel ministry. A ladies' prayer meeting was also established in Warrior Run congregation. He was deeply interested in the organization of Bible societies, and was appointed by the Presbytery of Northumberland chairman of a committee for the formation of the Susquehanna Bible Society at Milton, on the first Wednesday of October, 1816. He attended and frequently addressed the annual meetings of this society. At Milton, October 21, 1818, he delivered an address before the society on Psalm 138—2d verse. Sabbath schools were organized in these churches at a time when this new departure in Bible instructions was looked upon by some with distrust and suspicion, but they ever found an ardent advocate in the pastor. The cause of missions from the first had a deep hold upon his affections. When the Presbytery of Northumberland resolved, on October 9, 1818, to organize as a missionary society, auxiliary to the United Foreign Missionary Society of New York, he was appointed chairman of a committee to prepare and publish an address to the churches of the Presbytery. At the first meeting of this Presbyterial Society, held in Milton, October 21, 1818, he was elected president. His efforts were blessed of God in arousing an interest in the cause of missions among the people of his charge, and Ladies' Missionary Societies were organized at an early date. At Warrior Run the Female Foreign Missionary Society, in connection with the American Board, was organized in 1818, and the Female Missionary Society of Chillisquaque June 13, 1820, auxiliary to the Northumberland Presbyterial Society. These societies are still in active existence, and during all these long years have been laboring with zeal in the cause so dear to the heart of Christian love, and have been

a power for good in the churches. The Chillisquaque Bible Society was organized May, 1827, and the Warrior Run Bible Society, it is supposed, at an earlier date. Mr. Bryson was constituted a life member of the "United Foreign Missionary Society," at New York, in 1825, by the ladies of Warrior Run and Chillisquaque, and of the "Board of Foreign Missions" of the Presbyterian Church soon after its organization, by Mrs. William Sanderson, of Milton. John Bryson and Hannah Painter, two native converts of the early ministry of Rev. Richard Armstrong, D. D., in the Sandwich Islands, were educated by the Warrior Run Missionary Society. The former was named for the missionary's pastor and the latter for the wife of Rev. Joseph Painter, D. D. They both became useful Christians in after years. The churches of Warrior Run and Chillisquaque were the largest in the Presbytery of Northumberland until the close of Mr. Bryson's pastorate, numbering 500 members. It is to be regretted that he left no complete records of his marriages and baptisms, as he doubtless performed more marriage ceremonies than any other minister of his day on the West Branch.

In the last seventeen years of his pastorate, commencing with 1825, he baptized 903 infants and adults. The largest number in any one of these years was in 1825, when he baptized 155 infants and adults. Within the territorial boundaries of his original charge are now the churches of Warrior Run, Chillisquaque, Milton, Washington, Muncy, Moorsburg, McEwensville and Watsontown.

The congregation of McEwensville was organized May 3, 1842, by members of Warrior Run Church, and three decades later the congregation of Watsontown was organized by members of McEwensville and Warrior Run churches.\* The following ministers were raised up in the churches of Warrior Run and Chillisquaque during Mr. Bryson's pastorate, and went forth to preach the glorious

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\*The original elders of the congregation of Chillisquaque were: James Sheddan, James McNight, and David Irland. Of Warrior Run, James McAfee, Robert Smith and John Woods. April 5, 1808, the session of Chillisquaque was composed of the following members: Mr. David Irland, James McNight, John Chestnut, William Murray, William Shaw, James Sheddan and Paul Geddes. Warrior Run, the same date: Mr. James McAfee, Robert Smith, John Woods, Henry Graham, John McKinney and William Pollock. Additions were made to



Gospel of their Lord and Master: Rev. A. K. Russel, Newark, Del.; Rev. John Graham, D. D., Ohio; Rev. Richard Armstrong, D. D., so largely instrumental in the conversion of the Sandwich Islands; Rev. Daniel Gaston, D. D., First Church, Cohocksink, Philadelphia; Rev. Robert Bryson, Bloomsburg; Rev. S. S. Sheddan, D. D., First Church, Rahway, N. J., and Rev. Andrew Barr. From 1831 (April) until March, 1834, Rev. Joseph Painter, D. D., late of Kittanning, assisted the pastor in the Warrior Run Church. Rev. David Hull succeeded him as an assistant for a short time, who was followed by the Rev. S. S. Sheddan, D. D., in 1839, as co-pastor. Two services, with an intermission of an hour, were held in these churches on the Sabbath until the close of Mr. Bryson's pastorate. During the interval the congregation, in pleasant weather, repaired to the spring. Men, women and children gathered in groups, at their lunch, under the wide spreading trees, and chatted pleasantly until summoned to the second service. The communion service was observed with deep solemnity. Special blessings were invoked in connection with it, around the family altar, and in public meetings for prayer. It consisted of a four days' meeting, commencing on Friday and closing on Monday noon. As late as 1832 tokens were distributed by the elders on Saturday to intending communicants. At Warrior Run, with the dawning of "Communion Sabbath," the whole community was astir for miles around, and before the hours of service arrived the church would be filled to its utmost capacity, while on some occasions a congregation as large would be assembled in the grove, to whom a sermon would be preached by one of the assisting ministers. The pastor invariably preached the "Action Sermon" himself. The members at a distance made it a point to be always present at these services, and were sure of a kind welcome and hospitable entertainment at the pastor's home. The long tables extending across the width of the church, and

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these sessions at different times during Mr. Bryson's pastorate. Succeeding these venerable fathers in later years, were the following elders: Chillisqueague, James Moodie, John Murray, John Irland, William Sheddan, James McMahan, Robert Simington, James Durham, Richard Wilson and James F. Murray. Warrior Run, June 21, 1810: Samuel Barr, Daniel Vincent, Esq., David Watson, Samuel Russel. Later, Jacob Kher, P. Kerr Russel, Esq., Isaac Vincent, John McKinney, Jr., Joseph Hayes.

down the centre aisle, were covered with linen, pure and white. On the table below the singers' desk were the vessels containing the elements of the divinely appointed feast. The air seemed filled with a peculiar sacredness, as those in covenant with God arose and came forward to the tables, singing the songs of Zion as they came. At the services on the Monday following the observance of the Lord's Supper, the rite of baptism was administered to the children. Rev. S. S. Sheddan, D. D., whose father was one of Mr. Bryson's elders in the Chillisquaque Church, in his reminiscences, "The Church of my Boyhood," writes :

"Even now I seem to see again Father Bryson as he came from the study house on a Sabbath morning. Mark a gentleman of the old school, as he stops and speaks to that band of Scotch elders, who rise from that bench to welcome his coming. He neither uncovers his gray locks, nor touches his hat; but there is something in that peculiar bend, and the movement of his head, that no modern manners can surpass. Now I see his deferential bow, and I hear the very intonation with which he said, 'I thank you, madam,' as he answered to the elder's wife's inquiries for his health. As a preacher he was sound and repeated Scripture so impressively that even now I seem to hear the very tones, and stress of voice saying, 'Yea and I count all things but loss, for the excellence of the knowledge, &c.' Once more I hear, and see the things that were in days gone by. The punctual fathers are in their seats, their children are with them. How familiar that invocation and that morning Psalm, and the 'clarks' cry 'Williamstown,' that pitch, and then the whole house vocal with the strains. That long prayer I remember well; but let me stand and hear it through. Romans viii. 1. Precious text! rich gospel sermon! How those old-fashioned Christians love it, and how their memories retain the refreshing truth. On communion Sabbath, the prayers, the reading, the tunes, the singing all seemed to know that it was the holy sacrament. No matter who was there the pastor always *fenced the tables.*"

"I recall and relive those scenes, and hear him say again, 'Go thou from these tables and give place to others;' and again I hear those coming, and those going, with such zest mingling their sacred song to the tune of 'Mear or Coleshill.' There are many records belonging to the old church, which are only in heaven's keeping. With these good fathers, with many of their children, we hope again to worship, and join in the new song. It is a sad thought, that some who were baptized by the same hand, and heard of the same dying love, whose names are on Father Bryson's long record of baptisms, may not be found in the records of life, or with those whom on 'that day' our pastor will bring with him."

The influence of these two churches has extended far and wide. From them prayer laden offerings have been wafted to the islands of the sea. Their sons and daughters have been scattered all over the land. They and their descendants may be found to-day in

perhaps all the states of this Union, going to form other centres of usefulness and found other churches.

Mr. Bryson was very systematic and methodical in all his habits. He was eminently gifted in prayer, serving the Lord with all humility of mind, with a heart overflowing with love to the Master, and His sheep of every fold. He left a large number of sermons written in a neat fine hand, and carefully dated, some as far back as 1789 and 1790. His prayer meeting, communion, and funeral addresses were very carefully written out, and in some instances his baptismal and marriage services. His sermons are replete with apposite quotations from the sacred Scriptures. He was a mighty textuary, and habitually ready to quote largely and accurately from the Divine Word. One might suppose that he had the whole Bible committed to memory.

He resigned the charge of the Chillisquaque Church at the meeting of Presbytery, at Danville, October 1, 1839, after a ministry of fifty years, and at Williamsport, October 5, 1841, he resigned the pastoral charge of Warrior Run, after a ministry of fifty-two years. Mrs. Bryson, who was greatly beloved for her many social virtues, and who shared her husband's interests in all that concerned Christ's Kingdom, died on July 5, 1845. He preached but occasionally after the resignation of his pastoral charges; having been permitted to fulfil a long and useful ministry, he died embalmed in the memory of three generations. With a spirit chastened by manifold afflictions, he was peculiarly fitted to pour the oil of consolation into the wounded and contrite heart. In private life the graces of the Christian character shone with delightful lustre. An affectionate husband, a tender parent, a kind and benevolent neighbor, his ear was ever open to the cry of distress, and his hand ready to relieve the wants of the necessitous with exemplary liberality. At length, as the gracious Master was leading his aged disciple, his beloved and honored saint, to the last trying experience on earth, the venerable minister essayed to gird up the loins of his mind, and gave among others the following testimony, when the time drew near that he must die :

"In closing my earthly pilgrimage, I leave the world under the firm conviction, that the doctrines of grace, as set forth in the standards of our church, and which, as God has given me grace, I have endeavored to preach, are the pure doctrines of the Gospel; and in full and steadfast belief of their truth, especially

of that great and cheering truth they prominently set forth, of the imputation of a Saviour's righteousness received by faith alone, I enter the world of spirits, and confidently commit my spirit to my merciful Redeemer and Judge, trusting that his righteousness is mine through faith, which is by the operation of the Spirit."

During some days previous to his decease, his sufferings were severe; but as dissolution drew near, these sufferings ceased.

"Sure the last end of the good man is peace,  
Night dews fall not more gently to the ground,  
Nor weary worn-out winds expire so soft."

Early on the morning of the third day of August, 1855, when the "glory of the Lord came to him from the East," at his residence at Warrior Run, Northumberland County, Pa., the spirit of Father Bryson returned unto God who gave it, and the voice of Him, who sat upon the throne, gave him the "Welcome Home, Beloved." In the month of the previous January he had entered on the 98th year of his age, and at the time of his death he was the oldest minister of the Presbyterian Church in the United States! It was on the morning of the holy Sabbath that the families of Warrior Run, Chillisquaque, Milton, Muncy, McEwensville, Washington and other congregations, filled the house, and gathered around the earthly home in which the beloved old minister had so long sojourned, where the funeral services were participated in by Rev. M. B. Patterson, Rev. D. M. Barber, and Rev. E. D. Yeomans, D. D. Then in long and quiet procession, they went to the church in McEwensville, there to hear a funeral discourse delivered by Rev. James Clark, D. D., of Philadelphia, from Psalm xvi. 15. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." The body was laid in the congregational cemetery near the village, and the spirit of Pastor Bryson is, we trust with the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep. "They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever."

Of the seven children of Mr. Bryson four survived him; two daughters, Esther and Sarah, died in early life. The eldest daughter, Christiana, was educated at the Moravian Seminary at Lititz, Pa. She married Samuel T. Burrows (son of General John Burrows), and died at Muncy, November, 1865. Jane M. Bryson, who was graduated at Mrs. Bazeley's Seminary in Philadelphia (then a celebrated school for young ladies), was a lady of

cultivated tastes, and lovely Christian character. She died July 30, 1875, at the residence of her brother-in-law, Rev. J. P. Hudson, at Williamsport, of whose family she had been a member for fifteen years previous to her death. John M. Bryson, the eldest son and only surviving member of the family, pursued a course of classical instruction under his father, which he afterward continued in the "Old Milton Academy," under the celebrated Rev. David Kirkpatrick, D. D. After being engaged in the mercantile business, he remained for many years at the old homestead. Rev. Robert Bryson, the youngest son, began his classical studies under his father's instruction, commencing the Latin Grammar at the age of seven years. He entered the Milton Academy and remained three years under Dr. Kirkpatrick's instruction, until he was prepared to enter Dickinson College, Carlisle, October, 1825, of which institution he was a graduate, October, 1828, and also of Princeton Theological Seminary. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Northumberland, April 20, 1831, and labored for one year, by appointment of Presbytery, six months in Williamsport and Muncy, and six months in Western New York. He was then invited to take charge of the congregation of Bloomsburg, with a view to accept a call as pastor. He was ordained at Warrior Run, October 3, 1832, and died with fever at the residence of his father, on the 20th of the same month, thus closing a life of brilliant promise at the early age of 23 years. In the words of his biographer, "he was a burning and shining light, whose labors were greatly blessed during his short ministry, and his death was a most triumphant one." Hettie, the youngest daughter, completed her education at the Milton Academy under Dr. Kirkpatrick, and at Mrs. Plum's Young Ladies' Seminary in Northumberland. She was united in marriage with the Rev. John Paris Hudson, then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Williamsport, and removed with her husband to another field of labor three years after her marriage. returning to Williamsport in 1870, where she died February 25, 1876. With praise on her lips and praise in her heart, she went to join the spirits of the just made perfect and the great assembly of the redeemed, who praise the Lord forever more.

[NOTE.—On page 4, No. 1, where reference is made to the funeral sermon of Rev. Isaac Grier, for Hebrews xi. 14, read 4th verse, which was the one chosen for the text.—ED.]

## SLAVERY IN THE WEST BRANCH VALLEY.

BY J. H. McMINN, WILLIAMSPORT.

HUMAN slavery has been defined as the establishment of one man's right to control the liberty, property, and even the life, of another. It probably arose at an early period in the world's history out of the accident of capture in war, when it was found to be more profitable to keep prisoners in servitude instead of massacring them.

All the ancient peoples of whom we have any record had their slaves, and the same may be said of all modern nations, if we consider the innumerable limitations and modifications to which the custom has been subjected.

Although the spread of the Christian religion has led to its abolishment by all enlightened nations, yet the natives of Armenia and Georgia, in Asia, continue to sell their own daughters to supply inmates for the Turkish harems, and savage nations keep up the practice as it has existed from time immemorial.

The one race most conspicuous in the history of slavery as an organized traffic for supplying the subjects of human servitude, has been the negro of Africa, whose sable children have been carried away to serve strange masters from the days of the Rameses of Egypt, when a Nubian slave was a valued attendant, on down to the days when a "nigger" was worth just what he would bring on an auction block, or from a trader to whom a child would be sold from its mother's arms the same as a brute from the flock or the herd.

Negroes were first sold as slaves in the United States in the year 1620, when twenty were landed from a Dutch vessel at Jamestown, Va. The colonists of that state, as well as the other states afterward, considered slavery as a moral and political evil, and strenuously opposed its introduction for 150 years, and protested so earnestly as to call forth from the King of England a special order forbidding their interference under pain of royal displeasure, and thus forced upon the colonists an institution at first intolerable, but which in the course of time became considered as a social necessity; and under the fostering care of wicked men became such a hideous evil in the land as to create internal strife of such

magnitude that to exterminate it a million of patriotic human lives were sacrificed, besides the untold agony and ruin that always follows in the wake of civil war. By the terms of the 13th Amendment to the National Constitution, as adopted in 1865, this frightful sin was forever abolished from the United States of America.

Soon after the first settlement of Pennsylvania, in 1681, a few slaves were introduced from the West Indies, and the traffic continued until an act providing for its gradual abolition was passed in 1780, by which adult negroes were liberated on July 4, 1827, and the children born before that time were free as they became of age, so that the last slave was set free about the year 1848.

During the century of negro slavery in this state, the victims of the curse fell to the lowest depths of degradation and debasement. Those in authority owned slaves to such an extent that selfish interests thwarted all efforts of philanthropy and humanity, until the unprofitableness of the institution led to its gradual abolition. After the census of 1830 was published, a great sensation was produced by the showing that the number of blacks held in bondage in the commonwealth was 306, being an increase of 175 during the ten years ending; but it was explained away through errors of various kinds in the enrollment.

The census of 1800 recorded 39 slaves in Lycoming County, while the census of 1830 returned but five.

About the time of the waning days of slavery in this state arose the custom of indenture, or "binding out," which continued until within twenty years. It was a form of slavery designed to be humane and beneficial, but it is doubtful if it was any better than the genuine slavery in anything but name. Many white children who were bound out suffered more abuse and cruelty than the negro slaves had done, and being by nature more sensitive, they felt the disgrace and the tyranny much more deeply than people of duller sensibilities. The heartless wrongs that have been perpetrated upon bound children in this state can never be known this side the judgment bar of God.

Another form of slavery that existed in Pennsylvania at an early day was carried on by a party of brutal speculators called "Newlanders," who encouraged emigration from Germany, and by tedious delays and expensive formalities, the poor people spent

their little savings until at length they found themselves on the shore of a new country, among a strange people, penniless and hungry, an easy prey to designing men. They were then unable to pay their passage money and were either cast into prison for debt or compelled to sell themselves, their wives or children, or all of them, for service during a term of years to pay the ship owner's claim. In this way it often happened that families of well educated, refined and respectable Germans would be separated for years, or forever, while enduring an enforced labor they were ill adapted for.

Although it is to no man's discredit that he comes from an obscure ancestry, especially if, by true force of character, he overcomes the obstacles that surround him, and maintains a record of honor and usefulness among his fellows; yet it seems natural to conceal such private history, and perhaps it is just as well to have their true worth go unappreciated, so long as the majority of the people prefer to applaud and emulate the glitter of baubles and the tinsel of vain show.

It is probable that Michael Ross, the founder of the beautiful city of Williamsport, was one of the victims of the "Newlanders;" and it is certain that among us to-day are merchants, lawyers, farmers and other citizens, successful in business, honest and respected among their fellow men, whom natural gifts have raised from the sufferings and misfortunes of the poor German emigrant to the plane of an irreproachable life.

Could we but place the historic events of the past century in this county side by side, we would find that the present generation stands within easy reach of an era of hardship and suffering, crudeness and discomfort more like the experience of the middle ages, than seems possible to have belonged to our immediate ancestors.

Human slavery appears to have been quite common in the West Branch Valley at an early day, though it never developed into that distressing form of breaking up families and scattering parents and children, never to be reunited in the earthly life, as so frequently happened in the Southern States. Harrisburg was quite a slave market a hundred years ago, and one of the most thrilling incidents in our pioneer history was that connected with old John



Harris, whose son afterward became the proprietor. Our state capital was known as Paxton then, and consisted of a ferry, an Indian village, and a large mulberry tree. To this latter John Harris was tied by some drunken Indians, who were about to burn him, when his faithful negro slave, Hercules, crossed the river and hastily arousing some savage friends, they hurried to the release of the victim, just as the torch was being applied. For this brave act Hercules got his freedom.

In Buffalo Valley, John Clark, John Loudon, Samuel Maclay, Thomas Moore, Eli Holman, Samuel Hunter and John Linn, were each taxed with female slaves in 1775 or 1780. John Linn purchased his slave, Judy, of John McBeth, of Chester County, April 10, 1786. James Jenkins sold his slave, Tom, to Colonel John Patton, of Centre County. Tom was 30 years old when the emancipation act of 1780 was passed, but was registered defectively and lived in the belief that he was a slave for many years.

Rev. John Bryson, of Warrior Run Presbyterian Church, owned a number of slaves. \*

Samuel Wallis, who came into the valley at an early day as the agent for an English land company, owned slaves and strenuously advocated the custom. He also held a number of Germans in limited servitude on the Hall's farm, near Muncy.

The Committee of Safety, about 1777, exercised their authority

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\*The following certificate relating to one of his slaves is still in existence :  
 "Be it remembered that on this twenty-sixth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred, David Montgomery, of the township of Lower Paxton, in the county of Dauphin, farmer, enters and returns upon oath, agreeably to the Act of Assembly in such case provided, one Male Negro child, born on the thirty-first day of May last and named Bob." Signed by David Montgomery and attested by Joshua Elder, Clerk, with the seal of the county. Underneath the above is the following : In Testimony whereof that the foregoing writing contains a true copy of the original entry as remains of record in my office, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the said Court to be affixed this twentieth day December A. D. 1813. For clerk Jacob Boas, George K. Nutz."  
 On the back of this certificate is the following memorandum made by Rev. John Bryson in his own hand : "Record of the age of the Negroes Liddy, Abigal and Dick, Mulatto children of the said Liddy. Liddy, as nigh as I could ascertain, about 30 years of age November 3, 1801, when I purchased her of Richard Robison. Abigal one year and five months old, at the same time, which, if correct, makes her birthday June 3, 1800. Dick was born December 12, 1803. Witness my hand December 25, 1813. JOHN BRYSON."

For Lydia and her children he paid one hundred pounds, and for Bob sixty.

to stop a certain Henry Sterret, of Bald Eagle Township, from profaning the Sabbath in an unchristian and scandalous manner, by causing his servants to maul rails, &c., on that day, and beating and abusing them if they offered to disobey his unlawful demands. He probably lived on Long Island, opposite Jersey Shore.

Charles and Samuel Stewart owned about a thousand acres of land in Nippenose Bottom, and brought slaves with them when they settled there. Sampson and George Melix were among the number; Joseph Melix, a son of Sampson Melix, is a respectable colored citizen of Williamsport to-day.

John Knox, who settled at the mouth of Larry's Creek and built the grist mill there, brought slaves with him when he came. William Crownover, who settled on "Level Corner," owned slaves.

Sheriff John Hays, of Lycoming Creek, bought Mark Colvin of General John Burrows, of Montoursville.

Robert Martin, who built the first grist mill on Lycoming Creek, at Newberry, brought a large number of slaves with him, comprising Venus, Prime, Pomp and Phyllis his wife; Mark, Pomp, Si and others, their children; also another slave named Jack, who had a cabin in the hollow near the present colored camp-meeting ground.

Amariah Sutton had an old negro slave who was very powerful. She did not like to have a cross horse they had open his mouth and snap at her whenever she passed in the barn, so one day she heated the fire shovel very hot and when the horse opened his mouth as usual, she plunged the shovel into it, burning him severely. The sequel has not been recorded.

John Dunlap kept tavern in Jaysburg, near the shad fishery and boat landing. Before he brought his family up from Virginia, he sent his female slave Ann ahead of him to put the house in readiness. He handed her his cane and said: "Now, you go up to Jaysburg, and if any one stops you and wants to know who you are, you just say, 'I am John Dunlap's slave and this is his cane.'" She accomplished the journey on foot, and lived for many years with the family, to be cruelly beaten and abused during the drunken sprees of her master. On one occasion he determined to cut her throat, and chased her through the garden, overtaking her as she made a vain attempt to get over the fence. As he was about to plunge the knife into her, his big black dog, that had been

aroused by the cries of the woman, seized him by the breeches and enabled the poor creature to escape. She would afterward take him around the neck and say: "You'll stick to your own color, won't you?"

Dunlap had two choice wethers, one of which the wolves carried away, and Joseph King, a neighbor, set two traps near the spot occupied by the Dodge Mills edging burner, and the next morning they were missing. Upon tracking them up, two immense wolves were found to have dragged them into the woods that existed between Jaysburg and Newberry. While the men were skinning them, old Dunlap cut out some rump steaks and took them home, where he made Ann fry them, and soon after reappeared with a huge piece of bread and slice of wolf meat, swearing and muttering that he was bound to eat that wether if he had to eat the wolf to do it!

John Winters brought slaves with him, one of whom, Tom, is well remembered by some of the oldest citizens of Jaysburg. Judge William Hepburn had a slave named Ol, whom he bought from William G. Dunlap. George Cowel was a slave, and after being liberated, lived alone in a cabin just above Jaysburg, near the river road. Otto was another slave known to the early settlers.

The Rose family had slaves. Phyllis and Jack belonged to Mrs. Rose and were doubtless brought with her from her native place, Northumberland. She is said to have treated them with great tenderness and gave them a Christian burial. They lived together as man and wife in a cabin at the spring near the residence of the late John V. Woodward. They had a son called Sampson Jack, formerly well known in this vicinity.

George Roach, now living in Williamsport at the age of 91 years, was the son of a man born in the West Indies, and brought as a slave to a place below Harrisburg called "Yellow Breeches," where he met with a slave woman \* belonging to Robert Harris,

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\* Her name was Nancy, and in after years she lived in Northumberland, where she kept a little shop and sold cakes and beer. She attended all the battalions with a horse and wagon, and her cakes became famed for their excellence. She often visited the house of Samuel Awl, Esq., in Upper Augusta Township, the father of Dr. R. H. Awl, of Sunbury, who remembers her well. "Aunt" Nancy was a very pious woman and was respected by all who knew her.

of Harrisburg, whom he married, and with her moved upon a tract of land in the wilderness, on Shamokin Creek, (five miles from Sunbury,) given them by Mr. Harris on condition that they remain there, occupy it and improve it.

He came to Williamsport in 1816, where he married and settled down. On the fourth of July, 1824, he was one of a party of eight colored people who were crossing the river in two canoes, opposite the present foot of Locust street, when they were capsized and seven were drowned, he alone escaping. One of those drowned was Ellis Walton, who had fled from slavery down the country, and when pursued to Montoursville was secreted by the sons of General Burrows.

When the Harris family settled upon Loyalsock, just west of Montoursville, they brought a large number of colored people with them, who had been slaves at their former home in Peach Bottom, but by Pennsylvania law they were held by indenture. They always showed much kindness toward these people, and when they died had them laid in their own private burying ground. When the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad was built it ran through this graveyard and all of the remains were taken to Sand Hill cemetery. Two or three of the women were among those drowned in the accident mentioned above. Among their colony was a colored boy, twelve years of age, named Anthony Stokes, who was raised by them and afterward married and settled upon the large island below the railroad bridge, and known for many years as Tony's Island.\* He was a very honest and industrious old man, and accumulated some means. He raised very fine water melons, sweet potatoes and peaches, which attracted the boys to such an extent that a cross dog became an indispensable companion in order to secure his crop.

His son Anthony was also thrifty and successful, leaving his children, among other property, that wonderful deposit of sharp

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\* He used to take the grists of grain in a canoe to Grant's Mill, near Northumberland, to have it ground, and on one of these trips he became acquainted with a woman who lived near Derrstown (now Lewisburg), and in due course of time fell so deeply in love that he wanted to marry her, but before he could do this it was necessary to buy her freedom of the McPhersons, who had bought her of the Colemans, in Lancaster County. The price agreed upon was two yoke of oxen, which were given, and the purchase completed by a visit to Sunbury.

sand just east of the limits of Williamsport. On one occasion he was visiting his brother Charles, at his home on Sand Hill, and after standing before the door for some time in silent admiration of the enchanting panorama spread out before him, he said: "Charles, you have a very large outlook here, but a very small income." The painfully truthful nature of this statement caused Charles to feel as though he was suffering from indigestion.

Perhaps the best preserved relic of Pennsylvania negro slavery existing in the valley, is in the person of Benjamin Baker, who lives with his son in Mosquito Valley, or his daughter in town. He was born in Lancaster County (now Lebanon) as a slave, and belonged to the Colemans, along with many others who worked about the great furnaces. He got his freedom when he became of age, and was the youngest and consequently the last one freed by his master, George Coleman. His mother and her brother were stolen from the coast of Africa and sold into slavery in the land of Penn.

Josiah Emery, Esq., will remember old Uncle Elmer Murray and his family, also Elias Spencer, wife and children, taken as slaves from Delaware to Wellsboro by William Hill Wells, in 1802.

Time and space fail in undertaking to describe the workings of the underground railway in this section fifty years ago. The refugees from the South would come in from many points and find ready friends to secrete them until they could be safely sent on to Canada.

Those noble old patriots, Tunison Coryell, Esq., and Abraham Updegraff, Esq., inherited a depth of sympathy for the oppressed and afflicted that "passed the love of woman," and the extent of their benevolence and philanthropy can never be known this side of eternity. It would take volumes to picture the scenes of hunted men and women concealed about their houses or barns, or conducted to the cabins of a few colored people in the dense thickets of "Nigger Hollow," and from there transported to the North over the Williamsport and Elmira Railroad, whose superintendent was a skillful champion of these poor people; and of the pathetic stories told of happy meetings of long separated members of one family, and of their seeing their owners upon the streets hunting for their "chattels," and many other stories of dis-

tress and terror perfectly incomprehensible to the present generation.

The census of 1800 gives the number of inhabitants, free and slave, in the following townships:

Townships.	Free.	Slave.
Bald Eagle.....	697	1
Loyalsock.....	512	14
Lycoming.....	520	6
Muncy.....	573	5
Muncy Creek.....	754	1
Nippenose.....	436	6
Pine Creek.....	706	5
Tioga.....	509	...
Washington.....	465	1
Williamsport.....	131	...
Total.....	5,303	39

The population of Williamsport 87 years ago, contrasted with what it is to-day, shows the progress that has been made during that period.

## INDIAN BURIAL PLACES ON THE WEST BRANCH.

BY DUDLEY A. MARTIN, CALEDONIA.

THE village of Dunnstown, near the Great Island, was laid out in 1794, by William Dunn, in the hope that it might become the county seat of Lycoming. He was disappointed, and the town never became a place of much importance. Here is located one of the oldest burying grounds in the county. It is situated on the high hill overlooking the Great Island and surrounding country. Many of the old residents are buried here, and it is worthy of note also as being the burial place of Peter Grove, the old pioneer and Indian hunter, who was drowned in the river opposite Lock Haven. The old Indian town that stood on the site where Dunnstown now stands was located, as indications show at the present day, on the lands of Mr. Bethuel Hall, and Major David McCloskey. It was a charming spot and in every way worthy to be a fairy land and paradise to the Indian. Even at the present day it would be difficult to find a spot with more of the romantic and picturesque combined.

Traces of the Indian burying ground were visible after the arrival of the white settlers. It was situated on the high ground, on the east side of the mill pond at Clinton Harbor, and was tastefully located in a grove of wild plum trees.

Not far from this more graves existed. They were on a hill known at the present day as Reed's Hill, or the picnic ground. A number of years ago, about 1820-5, one of these graves or tombs was opened. It was accidentally discovered by a hunter, whose dog gave chase to a rabbit, and ran it into a ledge of rocks near the brow of the hill. Proceeding to examine, it proved to be a shelving rock, walled up with rough stone around its outer edge, so as to form a small chamber or tomb. Removing part of the wall and stones and peering 'neath the rock, to his horror the hunter found himself confronted by an Indian. Being much frightened, he hastily left the place. On further examination it proved to be the body of an Indian woman, and what was strange, it was in a mummified state and placed under the shelf in a sitting position. Her clothing was richly decorated with beads and Indian finery, and was supposed to have been a queen or the daughter of a chief. In connection with the body was a kettle of European make, several glass bottles and a gilt button, which bore the stamp of "London." It was evident they had communication with the white traders before her death. The body was removed to a distance by doctors, who took it in charge. Beads could be found around the rock for a long time afterwards.

Large numbers of Indian relics have been found at Dunnstown and the Great Island, consisting of arrow heads, tomahawks, celts, pipes, beads, pottery, &c., of which a large and varied collection can be found in the cabinet of the writer.

In 1865 there was found by Mr. James Newberry, near the Great Island, an Indian talisman or charm, in the form of a human face cut in relief from a fine stone of a red color, and about the size of an ordinary finger nail. It was so perforated as to be suspended with a cord. A similar specimen was found in a grave, on the Allegheny River, at Warren.

There existed a burial mound at Monseytown Flats, on the land of Mr. Isaac Packer. It was opened a few years ago, and was found to contain the remains of quite a number of Indians in an

advanced state of decay. In connection with the remains there were found several stone pipes of curious workmanship.

A burying ground also existed where Lock Haven now stands. The remains of numbers have been disinterred there at different times. In 1877 Mr. Levi McGuire, while making a small excavation in his garden on Water street, disinterred the remains of several buried in one grave. They had been buried in a sitting position. The bones soon went to pieces on being exposed to the air. They had the appearance of having been buried a great length of time. A small paint cup of stone, and a perforated implement of stone and of peculiar shape, were found with the remains.

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#### ECCENTRIC TRIBUTE TO A MOTHER.

Mrs. Catharine Fordyce, an aged and eccentric lady, died at her home in Smithfield, Fayette County, Pa., in the early part of April, 1887, and an equally eccentric son, Benson B. Fordyce, wrote the following curious obituary notice, which we find floating in the newspapers :

"She had almost reached her eighty-third mile stone," writes the son, "and she was a good Christian in that she always taught her boys to keep their bodies from the doctors, their money from the lawyers, and their souls from the devil. She had many ups and downs in this life, and more downs than ups, having had her left leg broken three times in the last twenty-two years—first at the ankle, second at the shin, and third at the hip. Never having been away, no wonder she shouted when she saw the headlight on the old ship :

"So much trouble here. God have mercy! Hallelujah!"

"The subject of religion being the greatest subject that ever engrossed the mind of man, and being anxious about the future, having read Tom Paine, Voltaire, Hume and Ingersoll, and while I am sure a great and good God (creation being a positive proof, preaching being a trade like shoemaking), I always had my doubts about future rewards and punishments. When mother told me her gripsack was packed I told her if there was a heaven, to come back and let me know some way.



“‘Oh,’ she replied, ‘you would not believe, though one rose from the dead.’

“I told her I would believe if she rose from the dead. She replied: ‘I will if I can.’ This she did by turning white after death and looking as young and sweet as a girl of 16, and smiled just as sweetly. It remained until she was cold. The neighbors who were present will vouch for the truth of this. Her face was terrible to behold. Nothing but the love of God could produce such a change.

“War is nothing over the sea, but let it come home as it has to me, then it goes for the heart strings; and even now while I am scribbling I feel more like singing the ‘Old Log Cabin in the Lane.’ I return thanks to Almighty God for rowing mother over the river a shouting and landing her a smiling.

“The above was the wife of Garrard Fordyce, whose mother was a sister of Judge Garrard of the Fort. His grandmother was killed by Indians near the Fort. You can read an old gravestone beneath the Indian’s tomahawk: ‘My baby and I were slain.’ He was one of President Harrison’s electors in 1840, and could have been governor at that time, being very popular and possessed of plenty of means; but droving was his delight, having the road strung with cattle from Illinois to Philadelphia. It could truthfully be said of him, the cattle upon 1,000 hills were his. He was also famous for being the only man in Greene County who ever made an almanac. He spent many sleepless nights at it. Having no printing press, he wrote it out. He died as poor as Lazarus, on the bosom of the ocean, and was carried to Abraham’s bosom, where all wear golden slippers. Mrs. Fordyce’s people came from the Susquehanna, and were related to John and Bill Bigler, who used to raft down that river, and both became governors, John of California, and Bill of Pennsylvania.”

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At the public sale of the effects of the late Lydia Roush, of Freeburg, Snyder County, whose death was mentioned in the May number of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL, two chairs, a cream jug and half a dozen figured plates were disposed of which were one hundred years old.

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LIKE Northumberland County, Luzerne has a Warrior Run.

## POSTMASTERS OF MUNCY.

The question having been asked: "Who was the first postmaster of Muncy?" D. B. Dykins, Esq., of that place, applied to the department at Washington for the information. His inquiry was promptly answered as follows:

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16, 1887.

D. B. DYKINS, Esq., Muncy, Pa.

*Sir*:—In reply to yours of the 13th inst., I inclose a list of the postmasters, with the dates of their appointments, beginning with that of Henry Shoemaker, April 1, 1800, at which time the official name of the office was Muncy, and has remained such ever since.

Very Respectfully,

A. E. STEVENSON,

*First Assistant Postmaster General.*

The appointments referred to above, embracing a period of nearly 87 years, are as follows:

Henry Shoemaker.....	April	1, 1800
James Bell.....	Jan.	13, 1803
John Brindle.....	"	11, 1815
Abraham Taylor.....	Dec.	28, 1816
William Pidcock.....	Feb.	22, 1817
George Frederick, Jr.....	Dec.	4, 1819
William A. Petrikin.....	March	20, 1822
Cowden S. Wallis.....	Dec.	22, 1840
John P. Schuyler.....	March	15, 1843
William Michael.....	Dec.	14, 1844
John Whitlock.....	May	1, 1849
William Michael.....	July	11, 1857
Enos Hawley.....	"	9, 1861
" " (P. & S.).....	April	5, 1869
George L. I. Painter (P. & S.).....	March	12, 1873
" " " (P.).....	April	9, 1877
" " " (P. & S.).....	Oct.	30, 1877
" " " (P. & S.).....	"	29, 1881
James H. Fulmer (P.).....	Dec.	5, 1885
" " " (P. & S.).....	Feb.	10, 1886

NOTE.—(P.) Appointment by the President; (P. & S.) Confirmation by the Senate.

The First Assistant Postmaster General further states that no record of the office prior to 1800 can be found. It is possible that no office was opened at Muncy previous to that year, but it would

seem to be doubtful, as there was a large settlement there long before that time.

The following information relating to the establishment of mail service at Muncy is also furnished by the department:

The records show that in 1826 a mail route was established from Muncy to Meansville and others succeeded it as follows:

In 1832 one from Pottsville to Muncy; Muncy to Cherry; Muncy to Towanda; Bloomsburg to Muncy; Muncy to Jersey Shore.

In 1836 one from Northumberland to Muncy; Muncy to Tannyville; Muncy to Monroeton.

In 1840 one from Danville to Muncy.

As a matter of record the above information, which is official, is valuable for reference when discussions arise about the appointment of postmasters and the establishment of mail routes. It is to be regretted, however, that no information can be furnished concerning the postal business previous to 1800.

MRS. F. J. SCHOCH, of Selinsgrove, Pa., has held the position of superintendent of the infant school of the Evangelical Lutheran Church for the past twenty-six years.

## GOD BLESS MOTHER.

BY GEORGE COOPER.

A LITTLE child with flaxen hair,  
And sunlit eyes, so sweet and fair,  
Who kneels, when twilight darkens all,  
And from whose loving lips there fall  
The accents of this simple prayer:

“God bless!—God bless my mother!”

A youth upon Life's threshold wide,  
Who leaves a gentle mother's side,  
Yet keeps, enshrined within his breast,  
Her words of warning—still the best;  
And whispers, when temptation-tried—

“God bless!—God bless my mother!”

A white-haired man who gazes back  
Along life's weary, furrowed track,  
And sees one face—an angel's now!—  
Hears words of light that led aright,  
And prays, with reverential brow:

“God bless!—God bless my mother!”

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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Two Dollars per Annum, in Advance. Single Numbers, Twenty Cents.

A monthly publication, devoted entirely to the preservation of scraps of local history in Northwestern Pennsylvania, with reference occasionally to statistics, finance and manufactures.

Address all letters and communications relating to literary matters, subscription or advertising to

JOHN F. MEGINNESS, *Editor and Publisher*,  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

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WILLIAMSPORT, JUNE, 1887.

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## SUCCESS OF THE JOURNAL.

It is gratifying to be able to state for the information of the readers of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL, that its reception by the public has been much better than was anticipated by its publisher. Subscribers have been received from all parts of the State, and many letters of approval and encouragement have come to hand from persons who take a deep interest in the collection and preservation of local history. So numerous have these kind expressions been, and the circulation having already reached a point to make the enterprise self-sustaining, the publisher, although only contracting to furnish thirty-two pages monthly, is so encouraged that he is induced to give his patrons forty pages this month as a recognition of their appreciation of his enterprise. He has also made other improvements. Among them is a neat design for the first page of the cover. It was furnished by Mr. H. H. Darnell, of the Williamsport Academy of Fine Arts, and the engraving was done by Mr. Charles V. Melhorn, also of Williamsport. The work reflects credit on both designer and engraver, and shows what can be done at home.

The enthusiastic reception of the first number of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL, however humble and unpretentious its appearance, shows that a great change is taking place in the public mind with reference to historical matters, and readers now eagerly seek such information who would have cared but little for it a few years ago. This taste will continue to grow, and as it grows publications of

this kind will be better appreciated and patronized. A new era has dawned for us; one that shall see the gathering of what the ravages of time have left, and its preservation for the uses of the generations that shall come after us.

New subscribers are informed that sufficiently large editions of the first and second numbers were printed to enable them to commence with the beginning, in order to make their volume complete at the end of the year, which will be with the number for April, 1888.

Many friends of the enterprise have intimated their intention of contributing historical articles on various subjects for future numbers, which will be as valuable as they will be interesting. Numerous papers of great value are on file for publication as soon as they can be reached. There will be no lack of material. The editor alone has enough in his possession to fill the monthly for several years.

The outlook is encouraging to the publisher and stimulates him to make greater efforts to meet the tastes and wants of his patrons in the historical line. It is his ambition to build up a large circulation, and if every subscriber will take it upon himself to get one more, it can easily be done. The field is rich in incidents and reminiscences, and the greater the patronage the more inducement there will be to cultivate it.

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DURING the past week, remarks the *Erie Dispatch* of May 2d, many improvements have been going on at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in that place, and it has been necessary to do considerable excavating and filling in in order to make the grounds look as beautiful as possible. The workmen, while engaged in excavating, have unearthed some very interesting relics which were at one time in the possession of the early French settlers. Cannon balls about two inches in diameter, perfectly round, but badly corroded, are found in considerable numbers, besides other trinkets of iron. The most interesting specimen, however, is a horseshoe which radically differs from anything now made, it being of one piece of iron with corks placed around at intervals and a piece stamped out of the centre to give a firmer foothold. All these interesting relics have been placed upon exhibition at the Home, where they can be seen by visitors.

## THE COAL BUSINESS AT TYRONE.

The borough of Tyrone, situated at the junction of the Bald Eagle Valley and Clearfield Divisions of the Pennsylvania Railroad with the main line, has been rapidly growing of late years and is now recognized as a place of considerable importance. This has been caused by the rapid growth of the bituminous coal trade, which here finds an outlet, to a great extent, from the mines of Clearfield County, and the passenger business on the Bald Eagle Valley line to Lock Haven and Williamsport. Very few persons have any idea of the amount of coal handled on the scales at Tyrone. Recently the *Daily Herald* gave the following statement of the yearly coal tonnage from the Clearfield railroad, obtained from the scale books of the company, from 1867 to 1886, a period of twenty years:

Years.	Tons.	Years.	Tons.
1867.....	169,219	1877.....	1,374,927
1868.....	171,238	1878.....	1,298,425
1869.....	259,994	1879.....	1,622,976
1870.....	379,683	1880.....	1,739,872
1871.....	542,896	1881.....	2,401,987
1872.....	431,915	1882.....	2,838,970
1873.....	592,860	1883.....	2,866,174
1874.....	654,251	1884.....	3,173,363
1875.....	926,834	1885.....	2,889,499
1876.....	1,218,789	1886.....	2,280,782
		Total .....	27,834,654

This gives a yearly average of 1,391,732 7-10 tons. The years 1885 and 1886 show a decrease, which is attributed to strikes and the unsettled state of business in those years. The present year, however, bids fair to go far ahead of any previous year in the history of the road. As another curious item the *Herald* gives the following total amount of freight charges at the Tyrone scales, for the Clearfield Division, for 1886:

Months.	Amount.	Months.	Amount.
January.....\$	363,551 65	July.....\$	389,972 52
February.....	397,823 11	August.....	358,674 35
March.....	195,050 41	September.....	336,458 41
April.....	68,804 76	October.....	379,775 90
May.....	10,858 27	November.....	393,505 40
June.....	384,537 20	December.....	396,041 07
		Total for the year.....	\$3,675,053 05

And to bring the matter down a little more in detail, the *Herald* gives the amount of freight charges for a single week from April 4 to 9 inclusive. For these six days the total amount of freight charges was \$116,000.12, of which \$89,951.81 was prepaid. This shows that the Clearfield branch is one of the best paying in all the divisions of the great Pennsylvania Railroad system. And it also shows why the town is growing and prospering.

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### LITERARY NOTES.

H. L. FISHER, of York, will soon publish a little volume entitled "Olden Times," which will interest many readers.

REV. S. C. LOGAN, D. D., of Scranton, has completed the manuscript of his "History of the Scranton City Guards," and is now making arrangements for its publication. It will make a volume of about 330 pages.

THE Bath *Plaindealer*, a weekly paper, is publishing some interesting reminiscences entitled "Rafting Fifty Years Ago; or, Notes of a Voyage from Painted Post to Port Deposit." It is in journal form and gives the daily incidents of the voyage.

THE "Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography," published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, enters upon its eleventh volume in the April number. It is rich in historical matter pertaining to our country. Terms, \$3 per annum.

"GENEALOGY of the Parthemore Family," by E. W. S. Parthemore, of Harrisburg, is a handsomely bound volume of 242 pages. The author brought an immense amount of work to bear on the preparation of this book, which traces the family from the beginning through all its ramifications down to the present time.

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For want of space it is impossible to reproduce all the kind words said of the first number of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL by the press, but due acknowledgment is herewith made of the same, and we hope that our editorial friends will never have cause to regret what they have said. Their words of encouragement are highly appreciated and will be embalmed in the memory of the editor.

It is worthy of mention in these pages that General John Burrows, who was one of the commissioners of Lycoming County in 1802, hauled the present Court House bell from Philadelphia on his own wagon. It was suspended in the belfry of the Court House which was erected in 1800, and continued to do duty as long as the building stood. When it was decided to pull down the old building in 1860 to erect the present Court House, the bell was carefully removed for safety. When the new temple of justice was completed the old bell was again suspended in the belfry, and down to the present time it has continued to announce the openings of courts and public meetings with a faithfulness that has never faltered in summer or winter. Its tones are as clear and distinct as when it was first suspended 85 years ago, and if no accident befalls it the old bell is good for service a hundred years hence. Think of the judges who have been called to service by its clear, mellifluous tones; of the offenders against the law who have been summoned to meet justice face to face; of the criminals who have been terror stricken when they heard it call for them to come forth and hear their doom. Vandal hands should not be allowed to touch nor desecrate the old bell. Let it continue to perform its judicial duty far into the future, as it did long before the present generation was born. Its silvery tones are familiar to every ear. Disturb it not.

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THE Wilkes-Barre *Record* of April 21st reports that Dr. W. H. Sharp, of Nanticoke, has presented the Historical Society with two valuable relics. One is an iron hatchet or tomahawk, blade six inches long,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches along cutting edge. It was found on the premises of Asa Cook in Pike Swamp, near the cabin of Abram Pike, the celebrated Indian killer. The other is an aboriginal implement or ornament of stone,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide, and having two conical-shaped holes bored through near the rounded ends. It was found on the mountain in Hunlock Township by C. H. Sharp.

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MR. THOMAS DAUGHERTY, of Audenreid, Carbon County, informs THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL that he has in his possession the original plan on parchment of the interior of old Warrior Run



Church, with the names of the pew holders written in the slips and the amount paid for the pew by each in pounds, shillings and pence. He is a grandson of Mr. James Daugherty, who was one of the original pew holders. This is one of the most interesting relics of this historic church yet developed, and the announcement of its existence may remind others of something equally as interesting which they possess.

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### NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

MRS. MARY A. RIDDELL, who resides with her son, Mr. Charles B. Riddell, at Larry's Creek, Lycoming County, was born in Harrisburg April 23, 1800, and is now in her 88th year. Mrs. Riddell was always noted for her intelligence and excellent conversational powers. Her husband, the well-known Sheriff Riddell, died in 1879, aged 84.

MRS. ELEANOR BLACKWELL, of Jersey Shore, was born at Granville, Bradford County, February 23, 1800, and is just two months older than Mrs. Riddell. She lives with her son, Mr. J. M. Blackwell, and enjoys reasonably good health. Her husband, Nathaniel Blackwell, died in 1882, aged 85 years and 5 months.

MRS. CORMAN, of Miles Township, Centre County, celebrated the anniversary of her 95th birthday on the 4th of April, 1887. She was born in Penns Valley and has resided her entire life within fifteen miles of her birthplace. This good old lady, says the *Bellefonte Watchman*, still enjoys excellent health, a clear intellect and has every promise now of rounding out a full hundred years. The *Centre Hall Reporter*, referring to the family, says:

Her husband died quite a number of years ago. They were among the early settlers, and helped to clear the soil of its primitive forests, until a good sized farm, now one of the best in Brush Valley, was their reward. Mrs. Corman went through all the hardships of an early settler's life. She assisted her husband in all farm work; felling trees, preparing new ground, harvesting, attending to stock, and reared a large family, all of whom became good and useful citizens, as also did their descendants. The Cormans are among the oldest and most respectable families of Centre County.

MRS. ELIZABETH QUIGGLE, of Beech Creek, Clinton County, was born January 1, 1797, in Nittany Valley, and is already half way along in her 90th year. Her hair has scarcely turned gray. She

reads the daily and weekly papers regularly and keeps posted in the current news. Her maiden name was Moore. Mrs. Quiggle is the maternal grandmother of Deputy Sheriff Wensel, of Clinton County.

THE Lock Haven *Daily Democrat* is authority for the statement that Dr. D. B. Kline, of Osceola Mills, Clearfield County, celebrated the 95th anniversary of his birth on Easter, April 17, 1887. If his age is correctly reported, there is but little doubt that he is the oldest living physician in Northern Pennsylvania.

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### RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

SAMUEL REITZ, of Lower Augusta Township, Northumberland County, was suddenly called hence on the morning of February 15, 1887, while walking in the yard of his residence. He was nearly 85 years old.

MRS. ELIZABETH AFRICA, who died March 10, 1887, was the oldest resident of Huntingdon. She was in her 98th year and was remarkably well preserved both in body and mind. Only a few days before taken ill she was busying herself in garden making and preparing to plant early spring vegetables. The *Globe* says that up to within two minutes of her death she sat calmly on her bed, pleasantly conversing with several of her friends, and vigorously swaying back and forth a huge palm leaf fan. Her peaceful death was a fitting close of such a noble life.

CAROLINE PATTERSON, widow of a Seneca Indian who acted as a spy and scout during the war of 1812, has just died at Jamestown, New York. Her husband served under Captain Blacksnake, and, with his wife, were present at the burning of Buffalo during that war. She was 92 years old.

JOEL HEATON WOODRUFF, who died in Newberry—the Seventh ward of Williamsport—on the 12th of April, 1887, was 92 years old. He was born in Plymouth, Conn., in 1795. Mr. Woodruff lived for many years at Liberty (Block House), Tioga County, where he kept a hotel and is well remembered by many of the older people. He was of a retiring disposition and a great lover of books.

It is learned from the *Sullivan Review* of April 14, 1887, that Mrs. M. M. Dickey, widow of the late James Dickey, died at her home in Towanda, on Monday, April 4, 1887, in the 78th year of her age. Mrs. Dickey was a pensioner of the Revolutionary war. She was born in Switzerland and came to America in early life with her father, John Mosier, who settled where the town of Dushore is now located, when that part of the country was an unbroken wilderness, with the exception of a little clearing by the refugee Frenchman, Du Petit Thiers, after whom the town was eventually named. When a young girl she married James Dickey, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, who died in Towanda in 1844, aged 96 years. Mrs. Dickey had therefore been his widow for 43 years. Two brothers, who are well known in Sullivan County, Peter Mosier, of Dushore, and Christian Mosier, of Colley, and a sister, Mrs. C. Hoffman, of Dushore, survive her.

JACOB ECKERT, who died at Northumberland April 7, 1887, was a native of Sunbury, where he was born March 3, 1803. He was 84 years, 1 month and 4 days old, and out of that time had lived 70 years in Northumberland. Mr. Eckert assisted in building the dams in the river at Columbia and Lock Haven, and was one of the pioneer boatmen. He was among the first to transport freight through the Union canal from Middletown to Philadelphia via Reading. For 40 years he had been a consistent member of the M. E. Church. He was the father of Hon. H. T. Eckert, of Sunbury, one of the Representatives of Northumberland County in the Legislature for 1887-8.

DR. SAMUEL POLLOCK died at his home in Williamsport April 28, 1887, after a long illness. He was a native of Milton, where he was born October 23, 1808, and was, therefore, in the 79th year of his age. Dr. Pollock received his literary education at the Milton Academy under the celebrated Dr. Kirkpatrick, Dickinson College and the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated from Dickinson College in 1828. He then studied medicine with the famous Dr. James S. Dougal, of Milton, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1832. From 1832 to 1838 he practiced medicine at Milton, and then removed to Williamsport, where he resided up to the time of his death, a period of 55 years. Dr. Pollock was an eminent practitioner in his day. He also de-

voted much attention to microscopy and the study of medical jurisprudence, was a Biblical scholar of high attainments and a poet of no mean order. He was a member of the Lycoming Medical Society, of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society, and the American Medical Association. At the time of his death he was the oldest physician in Williamsport.

MUNCY has lost its oldest inhabitant in the death of JACOB COOKE, which occurred April 19, 1887, aged 89 years, 8 months and 4 days. He descended from Revolutionary stock. The *Luminary* gives an interesting sketch of deceased, which is worthy of reproduction in these pages :

He was born in Point Township, Northumberland County, August 15, 1797. He was the oldest son of Captain John Cooke, who commanded the 4th Sub Legion under General Anthony Wayne, in 1792, and grandson of Colonel William Cooke, who had charge of a regiment under General William Irvine in 1778-9, during which time the famous battle of Brandywine was fought, and in which he and his regiment did effective service. Colonel Cooke was afterwards Quartermaster General at the post at Northumberland, and in subsequent years the first sheriff of Northumberland County. Jacob Cooke, unlike his father and grandfather, did not possess a military spirit, though he performed duty as a member of the "Volunteer Corps of Artillery" for eight years at the town of Northumberland, according to the act of Congress of 1814, and during the last war his sympathies and aid were unswerving, and devotedly given to the cause of the Union.

At an early age he was thrown upon his own resources with but a common school education, such as the schools of an early day afforded, but in early life he adopted the mottoes of "Honesty, Industry and Economy," and "Pay as you Go," and hence succeeded in life. In 1828 he begun the mercantile business, in which he continued until 1870, when failing eyesight compelled him to retire, and he was succeeded by his son Edward. Loss of eyesight, however, was not a preventive of his managing his own business affairs, and few young men of to-day possess the tact and calculation he did at three score and ten. He was a man of sterling integrity and independence, and when he arrived at a determination it became rooted and grounded into his mind as part of himself.

He was a resident of Muncy for more than half a century, and has been largely identified with the interests of our town. He at one time was an active politician, especially during the memorable campaigns of 1840 and 1844, and was a delegate to the Baltimore Convention that nominated Henry Clay in 1844. In 1849 he was chosen a director in the Danville Bank, and remained in office until the establishment of the First National Bank of Muncy in 1865, when he became a director in that bank and remained one until his death.

In 1855 he was one of the commissioners appointed by the Governor to organize the Muncy Bridge Company, and has ever been identified in the growing interests of that company. He was the principal mover in the cemetery enterprise,

and was one of two persons that laid it out in plots in 1858 and remained one of its managers until a few years ago. He was interested in the formation of the canal and telegraph companies, and was treasurer of the Muncy Canal Company for many years. He was wholly instrumental in having the road to the cemetery and Muncy Mills opened in 1859, in opposition to the Plank Road, which was then a monopoly, and he obtained in a petition to the Legislature 36 names out of 52 stockholders of the Plank Road Company.

Although coming from a short lived race, his father dying at 57 and his mother at 62, he was permitted to overreach the time allotted to man by two score years. He had a strong constitution and possessed a fine physique, which he retained to the last, walking as erect as a man of 40. His social qualities were of the highest order, and having a good memory, he was wont to entertain his friends by the hour with his reminiscences of early days when turnpikes, railroads and canals were unknown.

In 1828 he was married to Phœbe Houghton, and they lived happily together for fifty-three years, Mrs. Cooke dying in 1882. Their "Golden Wedding" was celebrated in 1878 with a family reunion that was the most remarkable party ever given in Muncy. Mr. Cooke has been failing rapidly for some time. On the first day of last November he took his bed and was never able to leave it again. He was attended solely by his daughter, Mrs. M. J. Levan, and grandson, Mr. H. C. Levan, who spared no pains to make him comfortable in his prolonged illness. Several weeks since his second daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Willits, came to assist Mrs. Levan in taking care of her father.

Jacob Cooke, after the death of John McCarty, in June, 1884, was the oldest male citizen of this borough. He was also the last survivor of the early generation of our merchants. He came to Muncy in 1832, and opened a store in the frame house now belonging to Mrs. Funk, just above Thomas Lloyd's residence. Thence he moved in 1836 down to the frame building in which Mrs. W. H. H. Walton now lives. In 1840 he built the brick store and house where he afterwards lived and where he died.

The lot where he lived so long is one of the historic spots of Muncy. Those who have studied the early annals of our town know that here stood a plain log house where the widow Merrill (grandmother of our townsman, B. S. Merrill) kept a public house for many years. She seems to have been a popular landlady. Military reviews were frequently held at her house, and eighty years ago it was also the polling place for "the second election district of Lycoming County," which then included all this neighborhood for miles around. Few know that this old house is still standing. It is weatherboarded, and forms the kitchen of Mr. Cooke's residence.

The Cooke family has been for more than a century a prominent one in the West Branch Valley. His grandfather, William Cooke, was an early settler of Northumberland County. He raised the Twelfth Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line and was commissioned as its colonel, October 2, 1776. Four companies of this regiment, Miller's, Boone's, Brady's and Harris', were from Northumberland County. Being composed mainly of good riflemen, large drafts were made on the Twelfth Pennsylvania for picket and skirmish duty, and it lost heavily in the war. (For the history and roster of Colonel Cooke's Regiment see

Linn's Annals, pp. 123, 124.) The old patriot lived until April, 1804, when he died at Northumberland. His children were John (father of Jacob), Rebecca Stedman, Jane, married to William P. Brady, son of Captain John; Mary, married to Robert Brady, brother of the former; Sarah McClelland, and William.

John Cooke was the illustrious son of a noble sire. From early manhood he was a leader among men. Among the many old family heirlooms owned by Jacob Cooke none were prized more highly than the different commissions received by his father. The first, dated 1793 and signed by "G. Washington," commissioned him to serve as "Captain in the Fourth Sub Legion of the United States Service." The second, dated 1798, and signed by Governor Thomas Mifflin, commissioned him as "Captain of the Troop of Horse of Northumberland County." The third, dated 1820 and signed by Governor Joseph Hiester, was a commission appointing him as justice of the peace in and for Point Township, Northumberland County, which office he held until his death.

Captain John Cooke, like his father, was a born soldier. "It may be said of him (writes John Blair Linn) that he was cradled amid the din of arms, as while a small boy the family occupied one of the houses in Fort Augusta, during the early part of the Revolutionary struggle." Entering the United States service in 1792, he took part in General Wayne's campaign in 1794. He kept a journal of this, which was published in the American Historical Record for July and August, 1873. The editor, Mr. Linn, adds the following note to his journal:

"On Captain Cooke's return from this campaign on furlough, he, with a number of other officers, accompanied General Wayne to Philadelphia. They called, in a body, on President Washington, and were introduced by General Wayne. They then proceeded to a fashionable boarding school, where the captain, in the presence of General Wayne and his comrade officers, clothed in his battle-worn uniform, was united in marriage to his cousin Jennie, daughter of Jacob Cooke, Esq., of Lancaster, who was there at school."

Captain John Cooke returned to his home at Northumberland and lived there the rest of his life. He died in 1824, in the 58th year of his age. His wife survived him several years, dying in 1841. His children were Jacob, who has just died; William W. died 1859; Sarah, married to J. Brobst, died 1839; Charles, now living in Chillisquaque Township, Northumberland County; Robert, now living at Howard, Centre County; Elizabeth, married to John Jones, died 1849; John died in the United States Hospital at Washington, 1862.

THERE died in Muncy on the 6th of May, 1887, a colored man named Henry Harris, who was born in slavery April 11, 1800, in the State of Delaware. He belonged to the elder Senator Bayard, father of the present Secretary of State. At an early age he conceived the idea of buying his freedom, which he finally accomplished by hard work and rigid savings. He then went to work and raised money by the same means to purchase the freedom of his wife. Thirty-eight years ago they made their way to Muncy Township, and finally to Muncy. "Uncle Henry," as he was

familiarly called, was a remarkable man and possessed of prodigious strength. He served as a cook in the army during the war and could not be excelled in his knowledge of the culinary art. He was a full blooded African, of massive proportions, and stood six feet two inches in height. Courtly and elegant in his manners, he was a true type of the Southerner of the old school. When Secretary Bayard was a small boy he was often carried to school on the back of this faithful servant, and he always entertained the most profound respect for him. Since his death a letter of condolence was received by a sister from Secretary Bayard, expressing his sorrow over the death of the good old man. "Uncle Henry" was in the 88th year of his age, and bore with him to the grave the profound respect of scores of friends.

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### ETYMOLOGY OF "SUSQUEHANNA."

Heckewelder, in his *Indian Names of Rivers, Creeks and other Noted Places in Pennsylvania*, together with their meaning, etc., (original MS., Hist. Soc. Pa.), states: "The Indians (Lenape) distinguish the river which we call Susquehanna thus: The North Branch they call *M'chwewamisipu*, or to shorten it *M'chwewor-mink*, from which we have called it Wyoming. The word implies: *the River on which are extensive clear Flats*. The Six Nations, according to Pyriæus (Moravian missionary) call it *Gahonta*, which had the same meaning.

"The West Branch they call *Quenischachachgekhanne*, but to shorten it they say *Quenischachachki*. The word implies: *the River which has the long reaches or straight courses in it*.

"From the forks, where now the town Northumberland stands, *downwards*, they have a name (this word I have lost) which implies: *the Great Bay River*. The word Susquehanna, properly *Sisquehanne*, from *Sisku* for *mud* and *hanne* a *stream*, was probably at an early time of the settling of this country overheard by some white person while the Indians were at the time of a flood or freshet remarking: *Juh! Achsis quehanne* or *Sisquehanne*, which is: *how muddy the stream is*, and therefore taken as the proper name of the river. Any stream that has become muddy will, at the time it is so, be called *Sisquehanne*."

READERS of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL are requested to send in the names of any old persons, above 80, with whom they may be acquainted, taking care to give *exact* date and place of birth. A few incidents in their lives are also desired. This department, in connection with the deaths of old persons, will become one of the most interesting as well as valuable features of the monthly. Comparatively few are aware of the large number of persons in a county or community whose ages range from 80 to 90 and 95 years, and the object in calling for this information is to bring this fact more clearly before the reader, as well as for a matter of record.

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MOSES VAN CAMPEN, the celebrated scout, soldier and Indian slayer, was born in Hunderdon County, New Jersey, January 21, 1757, and he died at Dansville, N. Y., October 15, 1849, in the 93d year of his age. In 1773 his father removed with his family to Northumberland County and purchased a farm on Fishing Creek, (now in Columbia County,) eight miles above its mouth.

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THE highest point in McKean County is Prospect Hill,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles east of Smethport, the elevation being 2,500 feet above Ocean level. Kane is 2,220 feet, and Mt. Jewett is said to be 2,250. All the above elevations but the latter, are the figures of Professor Ashburner, as given in his report on the geology of McKean County.

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THOMAS CALVERT, ESQ., and Captain John E. Potter, served as postmasters of the borough of Jersey Shore longer than any of their predecessors. Mr. Calvert was appointed January 1, 1856, and retired October 22, 1864. Captain Potter was appointed October 1, 1876, and resigned April 1, 1887.

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SCOTT, in his *Geographical Description of Pennsylvania*, published in 1806, says: Huntingdon County in 1790 had 7,522 free inhabitants and 43 slaves; in 1800 it had 12,976 free inhabitants and 32 slaves. In the same year the town of Huntingdon contained 635 free inhabitants and 3 slaves.

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ACCORDING to the survey of Mr. Welch, made in 1879, Lock Haven is 564 feet above mean Ocean level, Renovo is 672, and Westport 691.







FRANK THOMSON, Esq.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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"Out of monuments, names, wordes, proverbs, traditions, private records, and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of bookes, and the like, we doe save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time."<sup>n</sup>—BACON.

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Vol. 1.

JULY, 1887.

No. 3.

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## FRANK THOMSON, Esq.

IT has long been the aim of the directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad to place young men in the highest executive positions in that great corporation; and that they have been wise in this results have clearly shown. This policy has not led to any mistakes in governing the greatest railroad in the world, but has, instead, been for its best interests, year after year. It has given it that unequalled progressiveness which distinguishes it above all other American railroads. It has resulted in the Pennsylvania's obtaining the most thorough system of freight and passenger transportation in the world; the newest and most valuable appliances to aid in the swift and safe handling of many hundreds of trains each day; road-beds and tracks that are as nearly faultless as tracks and road-beds can be, and an army of thousands of employes as thoroughly disciplined, yes, and as handsomely uniformed as the finest army on earth. And of the young men who have successfully worked to make the Pennsylvania Company what it is, none has a higher reputation as a great railroad manager than Mr. Frank Thomson,\* Second Vice President of the road.

He was born on the 5th of July, 1841, in Chambersburg, Frank-

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\*For this interesting biographical sketch and portrait of one of the truly representative men of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL takes pleasure in acknowledging its indebtedness to S. N. Winslow, Esq., editor and publisher of the *Commercial List and Price Current*, of Philadelphia, in whose paper it first appeared May 7, 1887.

lin County, Pa. He is the youngest son of Judge Alexander Thomson, of the Sixteenth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. His education was obtained at the Chambersburg Academy, and when seventeen years old he left school and entered the Altoona shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to learn the trade of a machinist.

There he soon showed his great aptitude for railway affairs, and the late Thomas A. Scott, then General Superintendent of the road, was interested in the bright youth from Franklin County. Colonel Scott directed Mr. Thomson's studies, and, in April, 1861, when called to organize the United States Military Railroad Service, the Colonel detailed his young friend for service at Alexandria. Until July 1, 1862, Mr. Thomson remained with the Army of the Potomac, restoring destroyed bridges, shops, machinery, and building new railroad and telegraph lines, supplying the Union troops with provisions and war munitions, and transporting Northern forces. In the summer of 1862 Mr. Thomson was sent to the military railroads south of Nashville, where General Buell's army was operating. After Buell's famous march through Kentucky Mr. Thomson returned to the Army of the Potomac and engaged in the great railway movements of the Antietam campaign.

In the summer of 1863 he returned to Pennsylvania, accepting a position on the Philadelphia Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. In thirty days he was recalled to the army, and was ordered by Colonel Scott to carry out the greatest transportation movement of the war. This was the transferring of two entire corps, the Eleventh and Twelfth, with all equipments, from Washington to Chattanooga, where the Army of the Cumberland was in danger of destruction. The movement was carried out in fourteen days, and the Union forces were saved. Near the close of his connection with the Railway Military Service, Mr. Thomson's voice decided, at a conference where Secretary Stanton, President Lincoln and Colonel Scott were present, the critical movement of a great body of troops.

On June 1, 1864, Mr. Thomson accepted the position of Superintendent of the Eastern Division of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, with headquarters at Williamsport. During the oil excite-

ment of 1865 he took temporary charge of the Oil Creek Railroad. In March, 1873, he was made Superintendent of the motive power of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and in 1874 was promoted to the position of General Manager of all the company's lines east of Pittsburg and Erie.

On the 1st of October, 1882, Mr. Thomson was appointed Second Vice President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, succeeding Mr. A. J. Cassatt. Here he has general supervision through the General Manager, of all the passenger and freight transportation departments.

A record of the improvements introduced in the Pennsylvania Railroad by Mr. Thomson would be a long one, but we can mention a few of the most important which he was largely instrumental in having adopted. Among them were the rules governing the movement of trains on a single track; the system of track inspection; the adoption of standard engines, box, stock, coal and passenger cars; standard track, rails and ballast; the Block Signal System; the improvement of stations and grounds: and the great reduction in the cost of transportation.

Mr. Thomson is personally one of the most agreeable men in the world. He is logical, with a sunny temper and a remarkable quickness at repartee. He is of medium height, light complexion, and owns and resides in a beautiful country seat at Merion, on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

All the young men who fill the highest official positions in the Pennsylvania Company have won reputations for integrity of character, as well as names as great railroad managers. None of them have grown rich at the expense of the stockholders. They have kept just one thing in view year after year, and that is, the advancement of the immense interests committed to their care. They have built up the credit of the Pennsylvania Company until it is so strong as to be unassailable even by organized efforts of reckless London speculators and professional American railway wreckers. They have bettered the Pennsylvania's rolling stock, bridges, stations, tracks and telegraph lines, and have most wisely assisted the Board of Directors in providing necessary reserve funds for emergencies. They have won the implicit confidence of the Pennsylvania stockholders and of the public, and they have won it because they deserve it.

## THE OLD PORTAGE RAILROAD.

[The following interesting report of the engineer in charge of the construction of the Portage Railroad over the Allegheny Mountains fifty-four years ago, is reprinted for the purpose of showing the difference between Then and Now. The railroad was built and successfully operated for several years, and was regarded at that time as a masterpiece of civil engineering. But it had its day and was followed by greater improvements. Now only traces of the planes, embankments and engine houses remain. The report will revive pleasant memories of the past in the minds of older readers. The editor of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL crossed the mountains several times when the cars were hauled up the planes and let down by ropes, and like others of that time he regarded the improvement as something wonderful. But when the Pennsylvania Railroad Company purchased the public works of the State, constructed the famous Horse Shoe Bend and crossed the Alleghenies by means of locomotives, the old Portage Railroad was abandoned. Truly it had its day, but it may be pleasant at this time to read something of its history.—ED.]

*To Samuel Jones, Esq., Superintendent of the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Canal and Allegheny Portage Railroad.*

SIR:—In obedience to instructions from the Secretary of the Board of Canal Commissioners,\* dated September 21, 1833, directing the engineer to communicate such information from his department as might be required, relative to the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Canal and Allegheny Portage Railroad, I have the honor to submit for the information of the board the following report:

The first track including the second one, upon the inclined planes, and for the requisite number of turnouts, is now nearly finished. The work yet remaining to be done, is the laying of a part of the rails on seven of the sections, making, in the aggregate, a distance of about two miles. The stone blocks and timber are principally laid upon this distance, and ready to receive the iron. The engines and machinery are finished, or very nearly so, and principally delivered at the inclined planes; the contractors are now engaged in putting them up. The ropes are all delivered at Hollidaysburg and ready for use. A statement, in detail of each part of the work, is given below.

The following tables show the grades, the horizontal curvature

\*The board at that time was composed as follows: James Clarke, president, Robert McCoy and John Mitchell. Francis R. Shunk, who became Governor of the State in 1845, was secretary.

of the railroad, and the length, height, and inclination of the inclined planes :

Deflections in the line at distances of 100 feet.	Radius of curve.	Aggregate length of line in miles.	Deflections in the line at distances of 100 feet.	Radius of curve.	Aggregate length of line in miles.
0°	Infinite	19.29	6°	955.40	2.22
$\frac{1}{2}$	11459	0.05	$6\frac{1}{2}$	882.00	0.27
1	5730	0.83	7	819.00	1.30
$1\frac{1}{2}$	3820	0.19	$7\frac{1}{2}$	764.50	0.09
2	2865	1.14	8	716.80	1.24
$2\frac{1}{2}$	2292	0.29	$8\frac{1}{2}$	674.70	0.49
3	1910	1.78	9	637.30	1.43
$3\frac{1}{2}$	1637	0.38	$9\frac{1}{2}$	600.30	0.09
4	1433	2.81	10	573.70	0.49
$4\frac{1}{2}$	1274	0.17	$10\frac{1}{2}$	546.40	0.02
5	1146	1.28	12	478.30	0.23
$5\frac{1}{2}$	1042	0.25	13	441.70	0.32
Miles, 36.65					
*	*	*	*	*	*

The stone blocks are all delivered upon the railroad, and nearly all down. The timber used in the foundation of the railway upon the embankments, and upon other parts of the road where stone blocks could not be obtained without great expense, in consequence of the want of roads, is nearly all delivered and laid down. The cast iron chairs, the greatest part of which have been made at the foundries at Blairsville and at Frankstown, are delivered, with the exception of a few tons, upon the railroad. The plate rails for the inclined planes and the railway along the basins and the road crossings, are all delivered. About two thousand and sixty tons of *edge rails* have been delivered on the road. They are all laid, except a part of those which have recently come to hand. There remains, to make up the quantity required to complete the single track and the turnouts, one hundred and thirty-six tons; between forty-three and forty-four tons of these have been delivered in Philadelphia. They will be nearly or quite sufficient to make out the single track without the turnouts. If these rails are delivered without delay, the single track may be completed, so far that cars can pass over it, in two weeks; but the ballasting, &c., cannot be finished before the first of December.

The cost of the stone blocks provided for the single track, turnouts, &c., amounts to.....	\$ 27,195 02½
The estimated cost of the timber for rails, &c., upon the inclined planes, and for that used for a foundation for the railway upon embankments, &c., including turnouts, amounts to.....	46,872 06
The estimated cost of chairs, castings for turnouts, &c., made at the foundries at Blairsville and Frankstown, amounts to.....	58,134 26
The estimated cost of edge rails, plate rails, pins and wedges for edge rails, nails and splicing plates for plate rails, and chairs manufactured in England.....	192,644 00
The estimated cost of laying railway superstructure, including all the labor required to complete the same, amounts to.....	132,297 46½
Total.....	\$457,142 80¾
Add for contingencies.....	3,000 00
Estimated cost of railway superstructure.....	\$460,142 80¾
Estimate reported November 1st, 1832.....	461,581 97
Making the present estimate less than the estimate of last year.....	\$ 1,439 16¾

The cause of the difference between the original estimated cost of the railway superstructure, and the estimate of November 1, 1832, was explained in my report to the board, of which it formed a part.

The walls upon which the stationary engines and machinery are placed are completed. The sheds and houses for the protection of the engines and machinery at the head and foot of each inclined plane are all nearly finished. The dwelling houses for the engine tender and hands are in progress, some of them are finished or very nearly so, and the others will probably be completed before the setting in of winter.

The present estimated cost of walls, houses and sheds, for engines and machinery. Dwelling houses for engine tender, &c., hanging small sheaves upon the plans, &c., is.....	\$ 61,016 41
Estimated cost of stationary engines and machinery connected with them at the inclined planes.....	66,912 31
Estimated cost of ropes for inclined planes, including two extra ropes, and worming for all the ropes.....	20,314 81
Add for contingencies and incidental work.....	3,500 00
Total.....	\$ 151,743 53
Estimated cost of engines and machinery, including houses and incidental work.....	107,650 00
Excess of cost over estimate of last year.....	\$ 44,093 53



When the estimates for steam engines and machinery were made, last fall, no definite plan had been adopted.

The common price of engines in Pittsburg, of the power required, with an allowance for the expense of transporting them to the inclined planes, was assumed as the cost of the engines.

The machinery then proposed was such as would be adapted to an engine, with a single cylinder and fly-wheel. When plans were presented for the consideration and adoption of the Canal Commissioners, they decided in favor of an engine with two cylinders and no fly-wheel, and of machinery adapted to such an engine. Their decision coincided with my opinion, as I regarded the fly-wheel as the principal cause of accident upon inclined planes, worked by stationary engines. The expense of these engines, and the machinery connected with them, exceeds that of single cylinder engines and the machinery adapted to them about twenty-five per cent.

The cast iron frames, upon which the engines are placed, which have been substituted in lieu of frames of wood, and the water cylinder, for regulating the velocity of the descending cars, add considerably to the expense of the engine and machinery. But they add also to the permanency of the engine, and the security of the descending cars.

The ropes\* provided for the inclined planes are of various lengths, from three thousand six hundred and sixteen, to six thousand six hundred and thirty-two feet; seven of them, including one extra rope, are each seven inches in circumference, and five, including one extra rope, are each six and a fourth inches in circumference. The ropes are *shroud laid*; those of seven inches in circumference contain each about four hundred and fifty yards, and those of six and a fourth inches in circumference contain about three hundred and sixty yards. Four of these ropes are made each in one piece; the others are made in pieces, and are to be spliced together. They are made, a part of them of Italian, and a part of Russian hemp.

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\*They were what were called "white ropes," made of Russian and Italian hemp. The aggregate length of the twelve was eleven miles and seven hundred and eight yards. Their whole weight was 18,649 pounds, and they cost from 14 to 18 cents per pound, or altogether, when delivered at Hollidaysburg, \$20,531.05.

TABLE OF LENGTHS, &amp;c., OF ROPES.

No. of plane.	Circumference of rope.	Length of rope.	Weight of ropes.	Working strain of rope.	No. of yards.	Pounds raised 352 ft. per minute.	Pounds raised by single engine.	Horse power of engine.
1	7 in.	3616 ft.	7608 lbs.	9800 lbs.	449	6562	3281	35
2	6½	3920	6044	7812	358	5625	2812	30
3	7	3360	6935	9800	449	6562	3281	35
4	7	4790	8304	9800	449	6562	3281	35
5	6½	5657	8001	7812	358	5625	2812	30
6	7	5828	11668	9800	449	6562	3281	35
7	7	5710	11281	9800	449	6562	3281	35
8	7	6632	13221	9800	449	6562	3281	35
9	6½	5842	9240	7812	358	5625	2812	30
10	6½	4992	9499	7812	358	5625	2812	30

The machinery for working the rope is placed in a pit, under the railway, at the head of the inclined plane. The cast iron sheaves or wheels, that give motion to the rope, are placed, the one 91½ feet, and the other 87½ feet from the head of the plane, or the point where the road begins to descend. These sheaves are 8 feet in diameter, at the bottom of the groove, and 8½ feet in diameter at the extremity of the flanges; after they are cast they are put into a lathe, and the grooves turned out so as to fit the rope intended for each plane, and to give both sheaves the same diameter. These sheaves are placed vertically, and revolve in opposite directions. The end of the shaft of each sheave opposite the engine which works it, has a cog-wheel four feet in diameter, strongly secured upon it. The teeth of these wheels work into each other, and regulate the motion of the vertical sheaves. A cast iron sheave, nine feet seven inches in diameter, in the bottom of the groove, is fixed on a movable carriage between the vertical wheels and the commencement of the descent of the plane. The groove in this sheave is also turned smooth and true, but it is longer than the rope. The movable carriage may be drawn backwards and forwards about fifteen feet, but it is intended generally to be kept at the end of the pit nearest to the inclined plane, by a weight connected with it by a chain. The weight is suspended in a well; the chain with which it is connected with the carriage passes over a small sheave at the top of the well, which allows it to ascend

and descend as the carriage is drawn backward and forward. The short distance which this sheave and carriage is permitted to move would not be a sufficient allowance for the contraction and expansion of the rope, but the sheave at the foot of the plane, around which the rope passes, is also placed in a carriage fixed upon ways, and can be moved backwards and forwards upwards of fifty feet. The ascending side of the rope passes over and around one of the vertical sheaves; then through an opening in the wall that separates the pits, and around the large horizontal sheave; then back through another opening in the wall, and under and around the other vertical sheave; then down the plane. The rope is pressed into a little more than one-half of the groove of each vertical sheave. The groove at the bottom is a little smaller than the rope, so that when the rope is drawn into the groove, it is pressed by the sides and the bottom. The machinery is designed for two engines—one on each side of the railroad.

Each vertical sheave has a cast iron shaft eight inches in diameter, to the end of which the crank by which the engine communicates motion to the machinery is affixed. A second crank is connected by a short shaft, with this, which works at right angles to it. The shafts of the vertical sheaves are in two parts, so that by removing a coupling box, which is moved backwards and forwards by a lever, the sheaves may move when the engine is at rest, or the engine may be put in motion when the sheaves are at rest.

The engines are of the high pressure kind; they have each two cylinders, the pistons of which work the cranks above mentioned. Those for inclined planes No. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 have cylinders of fourteen inches in diameter, and the stroke or distance which the piston moves is five feet. The engines for inclined planes No. 2, 5, 9 and 10 have cylinders of thirteen inches in diameter, and the stroke or distance which the piston moves is five feet. The number of revolutions required, to produce a velocity for the ascending cars of *four miles per hour*, will be about *fourteen*, and with this number, when the engine works under a pressure of steam of about seventy pounds to the inch. The power of the larger engines, computed in the common way, would be that of about thirty-five horses; and the power of the smaller ones that of about

thirty horses. But as the power of the engines depends upon the quantity of steam produced, and the degree to which it is heated, they might, by increasing the quantity and elastic power of the steam, be made to do the work of forty, fifty or sixty horses each, without injury to the engines. This would produce a corresponding increase in the velocity of the ascending cars, or admit of an increase in the load. Each of the large engines have three cylindrical boilers, each thirty inches in diameter, and twenty feet long. Each of the smaller engines have three cylindrical boilers, thirty inches in diameter, and eighteen feet long; all the boilers are made of rolled iron, one-fourth of an inch thick.

The engines have no fly-wheel; the second cylinder, which works a crank at right angles to the main crank, and connected with it, supplies the place of a fly-wheel, in regulating the motion of the machinery. With a fly-wheel, if a car is thrown off the railway, or if any derangement takes place with the rope that will cause it to stop, the machinery or the rope must break, before the fly-wheel can be stopped; and when this takes place, all the cars upon the plane will run down, and be injured or entirely destroyed. Without the fly-wheel, the rope is strong enough to stop the engine without danger of being broken.

Whenever the descending train of cars preponderates in weight, over the ascending train, sufficiently to overcome the resistance by friction of the machinery, rope, &c., or when there is no ascending train, the coupling boxes upon the shafts of the vertical wheels are thrown back, by which the engine is disengaged, and the sheaves and rope are put in motion, by the gravity of the descending load. The velocity of the descending train of cars is regulated in the following manner: A cylinder fourteen inches in diameter and about six feet long, with a small air vessel upon each end, and a pipe upon one side, is placed upon a cast iron frame, secured to the walls, between the engine and the large sheaves. The cylinder is filled with water, and the piston, which works in the same manner as the piston of a steam cylinder, and which is connected by gearing with the shafts of the vertical sheaves, drives the water backwards and forwards through the side pipe. In the centre of the side pipe a sliding valve is fixed, by which the engine tender can regulate the size of the aperture through which the water must

pass, and by this regulate the velocity of the cars. When the vertical or working sheaves are driven by the engine, the machinery connected with the water cylinder is disengaged from the other machinery by the aid of a clutch. When the inclined plane is used as a self-acting plane, the train of cars are stopped, when they arrive at the head or foot of the plane, by a friction wheel fixed upon the shaft, by which the water cylinder is worked. When the machinery is worked by the engine, the cars are stopped by letting steam into the end of the cylinder, towards which the piston is moving.

The railway at Hollidaysburg, and at Conemaugh (Johnstown), passes along parallel with the side of the basins, and distant from them one hundred feet. The space between the railway and the basins is to be formed into slips and piers. The former will be eighty feet deep, or they will extend from the basin towards the railway eighty feet, and thirty-one feet wide. The pier between every two slips will be about fifty-six feet wide, and will extend from the railway to the basin. A branch railway is to be laid along the side of each slip, on the pier. They will be connected with the main railway by turning platforms. Two boats can load and unload in each slip, each one upon the pier alongside of which it lies. The cars, when receiving and discharging their load, will stand upon the branch railways, alongside of the boats, and the load will be transferred from the cars to the boats, or *vice versa*, with the aid of cranes. Most of the piers owned by individuals will have ware-houses upon them. The cranes can be so arranged as to place loading from either cars or boats into the doors of the ware-houses. Several of the slips, both at Conemaugh and at Hollidaysburg, are already constructed, and two or three ware-houses are built at each place.

At Conemaugh the Commonwealth have at the end of the basin, and between it and the railroad, a piece of ground one hundred feet long. The pier and slips are constructed and ready for use, except the branch railway, which is not yet laid down. The end of a street of the town lies alongside of one of the slips; this is used as a landing place, which makes the ground occupied by the Commonwealth equal in length to one hundred and fifty feet. At the other end of the basin, and between it and the railroad, there

is appropriated to the use of the Commonwealth a piece of ground two hundred feet in length, but no improvements have as yet been made upon it. At Hollidaysburg there is of the ground between the basin and railway, one hundred and fifty feet at one end, and two hundred feet at the other end, appropriated to the use of the Commonwealth.

The slip and piers authorized by the board to be made upon the first mentioned of these lots can be constructed while the water is out of the canal during the winter. No improvements have been authorized to be made upon the other.

The amount of tonnage that will be conveyed over the Portage Railroad during the transporting season of 1834, from Hollidaysburg to Conemaugh, will probably exceed the amount that will be carried in the opposite direction. I have, however, no information in my possession from which an estimate, that would approximate to truth, could be made of either.

As soon as this railroad is opened for public use, the cost of transporting merchandise from Philadelphia to Pittsburg will probably be reduced to less than twenty dollars per ton ;\* and the price of transporting produce from Pittsburg to Philadelphia will be reduced to twelve or thirteen dollars per ton.

The cost of transporting merchandise during the present season, from Hollidaysburg to Blairsville, a distance of about fifty-three miles, is from twelve to sixteen dollars per ton.

The expense of transporting merchandise by railroad and canal from Hollidaysburg to Blairsville will not exceed four dollars per ton, and this sum includes a toll upon the railroad one-half greater than that upon the canal. The inconvenience heretofore resulting from delay will be entirely obviated ; and the chances of injury by the weather to merchandise will be greatly reduced, and will be far less than when transported in road-wagons. There will also be a reduction in the time required for conveyance. If the Schuylkill and Union canals constitute a part of the line of communication, ten days is an ample allowance of time to carry a load from Philadelphia to Pittsburg ; but if the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad is substituted, the time will be reduced to about eight or

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\*The speculations of the engineer regarding the cost of transporting freight, compared with the rates of to-day, show a great contrast.

nine days.\* With the advantage of this reduction in expense and time, a considerable portion of the trade which now passes through other channels will be transferred to the Pennsylvania Canal. This change will probably be gradual, except so far as it relates to the turnpike roads through Pennsylvania.

From these the transportation will probably be transferred immediately to canals and railroads.

The annual expense of the stationary engines at the inclined planes will be nearly the same, whether the number of tons carried over the railroad be fifty or one hundred thousand. The same number of men will be required in both cases to take care of the engines and machinery, and to manage the cars. The quantity of fuel consumed will not be more than one-fourth greater to produce power for raising the larger quantity. With the smaller quantity the fire must be constantly kept up, in order to be ready at all times to put the engine in motion. Ropes suffer more from exposure to the weather than from wear. The latter would be nearly in proportion to the number of tons transported. But a rope cannot be considered safe to work upon the inclined planes more than one season, and it is believed that one will sustain the wear which takes place in the transit of one hundred thousand tons. When the trade increases to an amount equal to three or four hundred thousand tons per annum, then the expense for ropes, oil, and wear of machinery will be nearly in proportion to the number of tons transported.

The average expense of the engines, machinery, ropes, &c., at each inclined plane, for the ensuing season, will be as follows:

Coal, 60 bushels per day, 276 days—16,560 bushels, at 4 cents.....	\$ 662 40
Oil at 25 cents per day, 276 days.....	69 00
Engine tender, at \$1.50 per day, 365 days.....	547 50
Two men at 75 cents per day, 276 days.....	414 00
One man at 75 cents per day, 365 days.....	273 75
Wear, &c., equal to one new rope, mean length.....	1,600 00
Total .....	\$ 3,566 65
Add for incidental expenses.....	600 00
Total .....	\$ 4,166 65
Number of inclined planes.....	10
Total.....	\$41,666 50

\* At the present time it does not require much more than one day.

If thirty thousand tons of merchandise, &c., be assumed as the amount to be carried westward; twenty thousand tons of produce, &c., as the amount to be carried eastward; the proportion of the load to the car to be as 6 to 2 3-10; and the number of working days 240, leaving thirty-six days of the time assumed for the season in which no labor will be done; then the number of pounds to be carried westward each day, including the weight of the cars, will be 345,833, equal  $172\frac{1}{2}$  tons of 2,000 pounds nearly; and the number to be carried eastward will be, including the cars, 262,500, or  $131\frac{1}{4}$  tons of 2,000 pounds.

If the power of a horse, when traveling at the rate of three miles per hour, for six and two-thirds hours per day, or less (this being his whole day's work), is assumed to be 112 pounds, then it will require, to convey the above amount of tonnage, at the rate of three miles per hour, over the levels between the inclined planes, and between these and the basins, 76 horses and 35 men. The horses are supposed to remain upon the levels where they are placed, and to make regular trips backwards and forwards, from one plane to the other, except on the level between planes No. 1 and 2, where their trips should be divided into distances of about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

The cost of men and horses, which would constitute the moving power upon the levels, would be as follows:

Thirty-five men employed as drivers, &c., at 75 cents per day, 276 days .....	\$72,244 50
Seventy-six horses employed to draw cars, at 50 cents per day, 276 days .....	10,488 00

Cost of moving power upon levels.....	\$18,732 50
Expense of stationary engines.....	41,666 50
Expense of moving power to convey 30,000 tons westward and 20,000 tons eastward, making 50,000 tons.....	\$60,398 00

If the number of tons be doubled, or assumed to be 100,000, the expense of moving power will be:

Engine and machinery, about.....	\$42,000 00
For men, horses, &c., upon levels.....	37,465 00
Total.....	\$79,465 00

As soon as a double track is completed, locomotive engines ought to be substituted for horses, as the motive power, on three of



the levels, viz., from Hollidaysburg to inclined plane No. 10, 3 74-100 miles; from inclined plane No. 2 to 1, 13 6-100 miles; from inclined plane No. 1 to the basin at Conemaugh, 4 13-100 miles, making in all 20 93-100 miles. The other levels are short and better adapted to the use of horses than locomotive engines.

Estimated cost of the Portage Railroad, grading and work done under contracts :

For grading.....	\$472,162 59 $\frac{1}{2}$	
“ Viaducts .....	79,755 81	
“ Bridge .....	2,327 44	
“ Culverts .....	34,319 39 $\frac{3}{4}$	
<hr/>		
Cost of grading and masonry.....		\$588,565 24
Cost of stone blocks.....	\$ 27,195 02 $\frac{1}{2}$	
“ Timber .....	46,872 06	
“ Chairs and other castings, American.....	58,134 26	
“ Rails and other English iron.....	192,644 00	
“ Laying railway, &c.....	132,297 46 $\frac{1}{2}$	
“ Contingencies and incidental work.....	3,000 00	
<hr/>		
Estimated cost of railway superstructure.....		\$460,142 80 $\frac{3}{4}$
Walls, houses, sheds, &c., for engines.....	\$ 61,016 41	
Stationary engines and machinery.....	66,912 31	
Ropes for inclined planes, including two extra ropes...	20,314 81	
Contingencies and incidental work.....	3,500 00	
<hr/>		
Estimated cost of engines, machinery, and houses and sheds connected with them.....		\$151,743 53
<hr/>		
Estimated cost of single track, including double track on planes and at turnouts, exclusive of office ex- penses and pay of officers.....		\$1,200,451 57 $\frac{3}{4}$
Estimated cost of second track, including a second set of engines for all the planes.....		325,577 85
<hr/>		
Estimated cost when completed with a double track, with two engines and the requisite machinery at each inclined plane, exclusive of office expenses and officers' pay.....		\$1,526,029 42 $\frac{3}{4}$
<hr/>		

\* . \* \* \* \*

The construction of the steam engines and machinery for the inclined planes is superintended by Mr. Edward Miller, principal assistant engineer. Mr. Samuel Kennedy, sub-assistant engineer,

is the only officer of the engineer corps employed upon the Western Division of the canal.

I stated in my report of November 1, 1832, that if the rails were delivered in Philadelphia in time to reach Huntingdon before the closing of the canal, a single track could be finished in July. Information had been received that nearly all the rails were manufactured, and that several cargoes had been shipped at Bristol, England, in September, for Philadelphia. Disasters at sea, and perhaps, in some cases, improper management on the part of the agents of the importers, delayed their arrival.

\* \* \* \* \*

SYLVESTER WELCH,  
*Engineer.*

November 1, 1833.

## PETER PENCE, THE BRAVE FRONTIER RANGER.

BY C. F. HILL, HAZLETON.

PETER PENCE,\* whose name has so often been read in connection with that of Moses Van Campen, was a German, or rather a Pennsylvania Dutchman, of the days of seventy-six. It is believed that his proper name was Peter Bentz,† which name at that time was frequently met in Lancaster County, and that he came from there to Shamokin, and that it was changed to Pence, by the well known aptitude of the Pennsylvania Dutchman to cross the sounds of the letters b and p when speaking English, that in this way his name was written Pence.

In one of the Wyoming histories, in relating his and Moses Van Campen's adventures during a captivity with the Indians, Pence is described as a young boy. This is a mistake, as Peter was not only a man, but a very numerous one, both on the North

\*This interesting sketch of a brave ranger and frontiersman of over one hundred years ago was first published in the Wilkes-Barre *Record* of April 22d, and is reproduced here on account of its local value. If there are any persons living in Nippenose Valley who can give any information regarding this remarkable man, THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL would be glad to hear from them.

†Samuel C. Dodson, a highly respected citizen of Huntingdon, Luzerne County, who died recently at a very advanced age, says: "I knew the old man Pence; his right name was Snyder. He was a basket maker. By selling his baskets for so many pence apiece he acquired the sobriquet of "Old Pence," which appears to have been accepted as a family name by at least Peter, of Indian killing fame.

and West Branches of the Susquehanna, as an Indian fighter and scout, or, as they were called in those days, a ranger. The first record we have of him is that in June, 1775, he enlisted in Captain John Lowden's company, First Rifle Regiment, commanded by Colonel William Thompson. This company camped at Sunbury, thence marched to Reading and Easton; thence through the northern part of the State of New Jersey, and crossed the Hudson River at New Windsor, a few miles northwest of West Point; thence through Hartford to Cambridge, where it arrived about the 8th of August. Pence's company was now fairly to the front, and he had an opportunity of seeing the British troops whose batteries frowned down upon him from Bunker, Breed and Copp's hills, as also from their war ships in the harbor. The men of the regiment to which Pence belonged were thus described at the time in Thacher's *Military Journal*:

"Several companies of riflemen have arrived here from Pennsylvania and Maryland, a distance of from five hundred to seven hundred miles. They are remarkably stout and hardy men, many of them exceeding six feet in height. They are dressed in rifle shirts and round hats. These men are remarkable for accuracy of their aim, striking a mark with great certainty at two hundred yards' distance. At a review of a company of them, while on a quick advance, they fired their balls into objects of seven inch diameter, at a distance of 250 yards. They are now stationed on our lines, and their shot have frequently proved fatal to British officers and soldiers."

If this is a fair picture of the kind of a boy Pence was in 1775, then he should have been something more than a boy when, in the month of April, 1780, he, Van Campen and Pike, with the two boys, Jonah Rogers and the boy Van Campen, Moses' little nephew, rose on their captors, near Tioga Point, and slew a portion of them, routed the remainder and captured all their guns and blankets. After which they made their way down the North Branch of the Susquehanna River, part of the way on foot and part on a raft, reaching Wyoming on the 4th day of April, 1780.

Here Pike and the boy, Jonah Rogers, left the party, as they were now near their homes. On the evening of the 5th Pence, Van Campen and his little nephew again took the river in a canoe and traveled all night, as at that time the Indians were on the river below Wyoming in force. They reached Fort Jenkins (now Briar Creek, Columbia County,) on the morning of the 6th of

April, where they met Colonel Kelly, with one hundred men, who had come across from the West Branch. Here it was that Moses Van Campen first met his mother and her younger children, who had escaped the massacre in which his father, brother and uncle met their fate just a week before. She had supposed him a victim of the slaughter. The next day Pence and Van Campen left Fort Jenkins in their canoes, and reached Fort Augusta, at Sunbury, where they were received in a regular frontier triumph. On the 9th following, Lieutenant Colonel Ludwig Wettner writes from Northumberland to the board of war, stating that he encloses a deposition, or rather a copy of it, of one Peter Bens, who was taken prisoner by the Indians on the 29th of March, and happily made his escape with three more of his fellow sufferers. Every effort has been made to discover this deposition or a copy of it, but without success. The statement of Moses Van Campen as to this particular event must therefore forever stand alone.

The next exploit in which we find Pence engaged is in the year 1781, when the Stock family were murdered by the Indians about two miles west from Selinsgrove. It was a most foul and brutal murder. The neighborhood and three experienced Indian fighters, Pence, Grove and Stroh, went in pursuit of the enemy. The speed with which the Indians traveled, and the care required to keep on their trail and avoid an ambuscade, prevented the white men from overtaking them until they had got into the State of New York, somewhere on the headwaters of the North Branch, where they found the party encamped for the night on the side of a hill covered with fern. There the Indians fancied themselves safe. The distance they had traveled in safety warranted them in believing that they had not been pursued and they therefore kept no watch. Grove, leaving his gun at the foot of the hill, crept up through the ferns and observed that all their rifles were piled around a tree, and that all but three or four were asleep. One of them, a large and powerful man, was narrating in high good humor, and with much impressive gesticulation, the attack on Stock's family, and described the manner in which Mrs. Stock defended herself. Grove lay quiet until the auditors fell asleep, and the orator, throwing his blanket over his head, slept also. He then returned to his comrades, Pence and Stroh, informed them of what he had

seen, and concerted the plan of attack, which was put in execution as soon as they thought the orator and his hearers fast asleep. They ascended the hill. Grove plied the tomahawk, while Pence and Stroh took possession of the rifles and fired among the sleepers. One of the first to awake was the orator, whom Grove dispatched with a single blow as he threw the blanket from his head and arose. How many they killed I do not know, but they brought home a number of scalps. The Indians, thinking they were attacked by a large party, fled in all directions and abandoned everything. A white boy about fifteen years of age, whom they had carried off, was rescued and brought back. The survivors having fled, they selected the best of the rifles, as many as they could conveniently carry, destroyed the remainder, and made their way to the Susquehanna, where they constructed a raft of logs and embarked. The river was so low that their descent was both tedious and slow, and their raft, unfortunately striking a rock at Nanticoke Falls, went to pieces, and they lost all their rifles and plunder. From that place they returned to Northumberland on foot, and arrived there in safety.

Meginness in his "Otzinachson," after speaking of Michael Grove as the Indian killer, says :

"There was another remarkable hunter and Indian killer in this valley named Peter Pence, of whom many wonderful stories are related. He is described by those who remember him as being a savage looking customer, and always well armed with his rifle, tomahawk and knife, even years after peace was made. It is said that an account of his life was published some thirty years ago, and is remembered by some, but the most careful research has failed to develop it."

That Pence was not a boy, but a brave soldier of the Revolutionary war, and served out a term, during which he bravely faced the cannon shot and shell of the British at Bunker Hill, and returned home to do duty on the Susquehanna frontier against the Indians, and was captured and escaped with Moses Van Campen almost four years after an honorable discharge from the Continental service, must be conceded.

On the 10th of March, 1810, the Legislature of Pennsylvania passed an act granting an annuity to Peter Pence, in consideration of his services, of forty dollars per annum, which was to be paid annually in trust to John Forster, of Lycoming County, and re-

quiring the said John Forster annually to report to the Orphans' Court of Lycoming County, on oath or affirmation, how or in what manner he executed the said trust in him confided. Peter Pence, it is said, died in Crawford Township, Clinton County, in the year 1829, and left a son named John. It would be very interesting to know, at this late day, what evidence was filed at Harrisburg in support of the passage of the act granting the annuity. And also what report was made to the Orphans' Court by his trustee. And how, when and where he died and was buried. And who, if any, his living descendants are.

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## JOURNAL OF JOHN MARTIN MACK.

CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN W. JORDAN.

[The first Moravians to visit Shamokin and the West Branch of the Susquehanna were Zinzendorf and his suite in the late summer of 1742. Here he made the acquaintance of Shikellimy, Viceroy of the Six Nations, which was carefully followed up by his brethren, and ripened into a friendship, ending only with the death of the noble old chief. After repeated solicitations from the viceroy in August of 1747, the Moravians built a smithy in Shamokin and commenced a mission, which was continued until the breaking out of hostilities in 1755. Marx Kiefer, the smith, was the last member to leave in October of the last written year.

John Martin Mack, the journalist, was born in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, April 13, 1715. In 1735 he was dispatched to Georgia, and in 1740 left for Pennsylvania. Two years later he was appointed assistant in the Mohican Mission at Shecomoco, Connecticut. His first visit to Shamokin was with Zinzendorf in 1742, and his second in 1745. In April of 1746 he commenced the mission at Gnadenhuetten, on the Mahoning, the field of his labors until 1755. During this interval he visited the Indian villages on the West Branch of the Susquehanna annually, and in 1752, accompanied Zeisberger to Onondaga. His first wife, who died at Gnadenhuetten, in December of 1749, was well acquainted with the Mohawk and Delaware dialects. In 1761 he was assigned the superintendence of the missions in the Danish West Indies, and died on Santa Cruz, January 9, 1784. Mack's companion, Bernhard Adam Grube, was born in Germany, in 1715, educated at Jena, and sent to Pennsylvania in 1746. He was first employed in the schools at Bethlehem. In January he was stationed at Meniolagomeka, an Indian town (near Monroe County), where he studied the Delaware. After he returned from the West Branch with Mack, he was dispatched to North Carolina, with a colony of Moravians to settle on the tract of 100,000 acres purchased of Earl Granville, in what was then Rowan County. In 1758 he was sent to the Indian Mission in Connecticut, and in 1760 removed to Wechquetance on Hoeth's Creek, Monroe County, Pa. While here he translated into Delaware a Hymn Book, and

a Harmony of the Gospels, for many years in use in the Delaware Mission of his church. In 1765 he retired from the Indian Mission. After serving in the rural congregations, he died at Bethlehem, March 20, 1808, aged 93 years. This journal is a free translation from the original German.]

AUG. 21, 1753.—At 10 A. M., in company with Brother Kaske; we set out from Bethlehem.

AUG. 22.—By noon we reached John Mueller's, in Heidelberg, and found him very ill. In the evening we came to Loesher's, who welcomed us cordially.

AUG. 23.—Continued our journey—passed the Blue Mountains,\* the Thurnstein, Anna's Valley to Benigna's Creek, and thence to a High Dutch settler's, with whom we passed the night and found bad quarters.

AUG. 24.—When we reached Jacob's Heights we lost the road, but found a High Dutch settler, who was acquainted with the Moravians at Shamokin. He informed us that our brethren there frequently preached to the Germans in the neighborhood, and one was expected this week. In the evening we reached Shamokin and were affectionately welcomed by our three brethren there. They were anxious to hear from Bethlehem, as it was five months since the last visit of any person from there.

AUG. 25.—Marx Kiefer prepared for his return to Bethlehem, and left at 10 A. M. with letters. After dinner we visited the Indians who lived here, and found them very friendly. Many children are down with the small-pox.

AUG. 26.—In the forenoon we again visited the Indians and then prepared for our journey to Quenischaschacki,† a Delaware town sixty miles beyond Shamokin on the West Branch. Early in the afternoon we set out in a canoe, and four miles above Shamokin visited a couple of lodges where Captain Logan lives.‡ Un-

\*The usual route taken by Moravian evangelists to Shamokin from Bethlehem was through Salisbury Township (Lehigh County), Heidelberg Township (Berks County), and the passage of the Blue Mountains effected at Great Swatara Gap, in Lebanon County. Most of the names here noted were given by Zinzendorf on his journey in 1742. The "Thurnstein," probably Peter's Mountain—"Anna's Valley"—the valley through which Benigna's Creek (the Mahantango) ran; now in Dauphin County.

† Noted on Scull's map of 1759. The village of Linden is built on its site.

‡ The second son of Shikellimy, named after Secretary James Logan; he was lame.

fortunately he was away from home—in the Seneca country. Here we found a Shawnese dying of small-pox; he died next day. A few weeks ago he returned from the war with the Catawbias; the Captain was an Oneida, and he with four of his tribe were killed. The others fled, one being the Shawnese, and two Tudelers. The latter died on the day of their arrival from small-pox. We paddled on and came to the place where last year we tried to pass a fall, and when half way up Brother Mack's pole broke, the canoe turned and Brother Grube was thrown into the water.

AUG. 27.—Paddled on and soon reached John Shikellimy's hunting lodge,\* who lives here with several Shawnese families. They were very glad to see us and gave us bear's meat. The children so pleased Brother Grube that he gave them cakes, to their great delight. After dinner we reached Muncy Creek, forty miles from Shamokin, where we put up our canoe with an Indian we knew, as the water began to grow rapid. Here we met several drunken Indians who teased us for tobacco, and began to get cross. Finally Brother Grube gave them several cuts, and they were satisfied and let us go. We slung our packs on our backs, and by evening reached Otstonwaken.† Mack pointed out to Grube the spot where Zinzendorf and his party had pitched their tents. Proceeding several miles further we camped for the night by a creek.

AUG. 28.—Towards 9 A. M. we came to a small town where Madam Montour's niece Margaret lives‡ with her family. She

\*The oldest son of Shikellimy, who succeeded him in the vicegerency in 1748. His Indian name was *Tachnachloarus*, "a spreading oak." His lodge stood at the mouth of Warrior's Run.

† Also known as "French Town," lay on both sides of Loyalsoek (the *Olstuago*) near its mouth. Montoursville occupies its site. Madame Montour was living here when Count Zinzendorf visited the town in August, 1742. He thus describes her son Andrew, whom he met: "His face is like that of a European, but marked with a broad Indian ring of bear's grease and paint drawn completely around it. He wears a coat of fine cloth of cinnamon color, a black necktie with silver spangles, a red satin vest, pantaloons, over which hangs his shirt, shoes and stockings, a hat, and brass ornaments, something like the handle of a basket, suspended from his ears."

‡ French Margaret, the wife of Peter Quebec, resided at the mouth of Lycoming Creek (quacre—Newberry), which is also noted on Scull's Map of 1759 as *French Margaret's Town*. The site of her village is now embraced in the limits of Newberry, or the Seventh ward of the city of Williamsport. Prior to 1745 she was living on the Allegheny.



welcomed us cordially, led us into the hut, and set before us milk and watermelons. Brother Grube told her that Mack had come from Bethlehem especially to visit her. "Mother," said Mack, "do you know me?" "Yes, my child," she replied, "but I have forgotten where I saw you." "I saw you," he said, "eight years ago on the island at Shamokin, when you were living with your brother Andrew Sattelihiu."\* Hereupon she bethought herself, that at that time she had come from the Allegheny and was on the way to Philadelphia. She was very friendly to us, and much pleased that we had visited her. She was yet sorrowing for the loss of her son and son-in-law, who were killed last winter in the war against the Creeks. We told her we would leave our packs here, and proceed to the Delaware town at Quenischaschaeki. "Oh!" she said, "the Indians up there have for some weeks been drinking, and we would undoubtedly find them all drunk." On arriving at the town we found all quiet, and the people modest and friendly. We visited several huts and enquired diligently about Christian Renatus, and found that he had gone to peel bark for his brother, the Captain, who is building a new hut. We remained until evening, and then returned to Margaret's town, who again furnished us with food. We had a long conversation with her on many subjects, and she spoke particularly of Andrew Sattelihiu, and of her husband, who for six years has drank no whisky, and who had already prevailed upon two men from drinking.

AUG. 29.—Early this morning we again went to the Delaware town to seek Christian Renatus, and at last found him. He accompanied us a short distance into the woods, where we had a lengthy conversation on religious matters; and finally he said: "Yes, brethren, your eyes shall soon see me in your town." We took an affectionate leave of him, and prayed to the Lord that he might have mercy on him. We then returned to Margaret's town to take leave of her. She desired us to visit her very soon again, which we hoped to do.

As to Andrew Sattelihiu, he is now interpreter for Virginia and

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\* Andrew Montour, alias *Sattelihiu*, son of Madame Montour, for a number of years was in the employ of the Proprietaries as assistant interpreter. He accompanied Bishop Spangenberg to Onondaga in June of 1745, and was a warm friend of the Moravians.

receives a salary of £300, and has been twice this summer to Onondaga. He is now absent, to bring Margaret's relatives, who live in French Canada, to her.

The French have set £100 on his head. The Governor of Virginia has also appointed him a Colonel, and presented to him a fine tract of land on the Potomac. He is a friend of the Moravians, and still remembers how, eleven years ago, he traveled with a great gentleman. The Six Nations have expressed themselves to this effect, that whatever nation should kill him, they would at once begin war—he is held in such high esteem among them.

French Margaret is also held in high esteem by the Indians, and allows no drunkard in her town. Her husband is a Mohawk, who understands French well, as also their children, but they do not speak it. She told Brother Grube that our missionaries might learn the Mohawk in her town.

By noon we reached our canoe at Muncy Creek, and found that a blanket and some provisions wrapped in it had been taken. Having had nothing to eat, we obtained some corn from a woman. Below Muncy Creek we visited a small Shawnese town, which a few years ago was built by some families from Wyomick. We found old Shikase, of Wyomick, here, who has been here since spring. He saluted us as brothers. We also visited John Shikellimy, who lives here and has a Shawnese wife. He furnished us with a choice piece of bear's meat. Shikellimy's family have mostly left Shamokin, as they found it very difficult to live there, owing to the large number of Indians constantly passing through the town, who have to be fed. Our brethren make the same complaint—they have fed as high as 100 Indians per annum.

We encamped for the night on a beautiful spot on the river, and before retiring to rest held a devotional service.

AUG. 30.—Journeyed on by water, and towards evening reached our brethren at Shamokin, who were delighted to see us again.

AUG. 31.—We visited among the Indians to-day, and Brother Grube informed them that in the morning we would set out for Bethlehem, and that the smith and one brother would remain.

SEPT. 1.—We set out for Bethlehem.

A WHOLE family of giants is reported to be living near McConellsburg, Fayette County. The members of this remarkable family recently investigated their weights and sizes with the following result: Samuel A. Nesbit, aged 24 years, 6 feet in height, 184 pounds in weight; John A. Nesbit, aged 25 years, 6 feet in height, 183 pounds in weight; William H. Nesbit, aged 21 years, 6 feet in height, 185½ pounds in weight; Charles F. Nesbit, aged 19 years, 6 feet 2 inches in height, weight 182 pounds; Albert Nesbit, aged 17 years, 6 feet 3 inches in height, weight 185½ pounds. The father, William Nesbit, is also a man over 6 feet.

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ACCORDING to Gordon's *Gazetteer*, published in 1832, Bellefonte contained 203 inhabitants in 1810; in 1820, 433, and in 1830, 699. It was incorporated as a borough in 1814.

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### THE SUSQUEHANNA.

BY H. T. ECKERT.

THOU sweet murmuring river, how oft in the shadows  
 Of high arching buttonwoods, shading thy shore,  
 I've sat till the evening star 'rose o'er the meadows,—  
 Oh! could I live over those moments once more.

But they're gone and I'm weeping, I ne'er can recall them.  
 No more hear thy rippings again as of yore,  
 For "the giant" old buttonwood lies prone before me,—  
 A true type of happiness wrecked on thy shore.

I sing to thy praises, sweet river flow onward  
 And gladden the land from thy source to "the Bay;"  
 May thy clear running waters while Time rolls his cycle  
 Flow onward in beauty, flow onward nor stay!

But wind through thy mountain course, dash o'er thy rapids,  
 Flow sluggish, or swift as in ages long passed,  
 And to thee, Susquehanna, my muse I'll unburden,  
 And sing of thy glories, while memory lasts.

How human thy waters, *now* laughing and sparkling,  
 Then dashing in madness thy foam to the tide;  
 Now sleeping in death, bound in ice chilly fetters,  
 Then waking in gladness, in freedom and pride.

I crave but the favor when life's sands are ended,  
 To rest on thy banks 'neath some well sheltered grove;  
 There, lulled by thy murmurs, to sleep on in quiet,  
 Till envy and hate are the prisoners of love.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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Address all letters and communications relating to literary matters, subscription or advertising to

JOHN F. MEGINNESS, *Editor and Publisher*,  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

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WILLIAMSPORT, JULY, 1887.

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## SUSQUEHANNA GOVERNORS.

Comparatively few persons are aware of the large number of Governors of the State that have been taken from the upper waters of the Susquehanna River. Simon Snyder, who served as Governor from 1808 to 1817—three terms—resided at Selinsgrove, on the Susquehanna, from 1784 to 1817, the date of his death. William Bigler, who was Governor from 1852 to 1855, was a resident of Clearfield, on the West Branch, and died there August 9, 1880.

He was followed by James Pollock, of Milton, who was chief executive of the State from 1855 to 1858. Ex-Governor Pollock, who is still living, resides in Philadelphia.

He was succeeded by William F. Packer, of Williamsport, who served as Governor from 1858 to 1861. He died at his home in Williamsport, September 27, 1870.

Andrew G. Curtin, of Bellefonte, came next in order. He served two terms, from 1861 to 1867, and as he took an active part in raising volunteers, he received the title of the "War Governor." Ex-Governor Curtin, after filling many offices of trust since he retired from the executive chair, is living quietly at his home in Bellefonte.

Henry M. Hoyt, of Wilkes-Barre, on the North Branch, was inducted into the gubernatorial chair in 1879 and retired in 1883, the term having been extended to four years by the new Constitution.

The last Governor chosen from the upper region of the West

Branch was James A. Beaver, of Bellefonte, who was inaugurated January 18, 1887, and is now serving the first year of his term, which will expire in 1891.

It will be seen, therefore, that five Governors have been taken from the West Branch, one from the North Branch, and one from the main river, at Selinsgrove. Altogether seven Susquehanna Governors have been furnished, which is a larger number than has been taken from any other part of the State since Proprietary and Colonial days.

It might be mentioned in this connection that at the same time William Bigler was chosen, his brother John was elected Governor of California. John Andrew Shulze, who was Governor from 1823 to 1829—two terms—was not a resident of the West Branch Valley when he was elected, but at the close of his last term he removed to Montoursville, Lycoming County, in 1829, and engaged in farming. He remained there until 1846, a period of seventeen years, when, having become involved in debt, his farm was sold by the Sheriff. He then changed his residence to Lancaster, where he died November 19, 1852.

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### ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD.

The Harrisburg *Telegraph* is authority for the statement that Mrs. Mary Brunner, of Derry, Dauphin County, is in the dawn of the second century of her existence, having celebrated her 100th birthday on Tuesday, May 17, 1887. She was born in East Cocalico Township, Lancaster County, and was the mother of fourteen children, six of whom are dead. The oldest child living is Mrs. Mary Stoever, of Dauphin County, and is 78 years of age, and the youngest is Mr. Cyrus Brunner, of Reinholdsville, aged 62 years. In addition to her children there are living thirty-two grandchildren and 114 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Mrs. Brunner lived in East Cocalico Township for 87 years, when she came to Derry to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. Christian Kegeries. She is a remarkably active woman for her age. She appears not to be older than about 80 years, has very few gray hairs, possesses excellent sight, and is especially delighted when she can relate incidents which occurred

in her childhood. She has never been sick during her lifetime, and she enjoys an excellent appetite. On the occasion of her birthday celebration about one hundred guests besides her relatives were present from Denver, Col., Reading, Lebanon and Harrisburg, and a delightful time was spent. She was the recipient of many gifts, one of which was a lace cap with lavender ribbons, on which is embroidered "One Hundred Years." It is very handsome and was from a Philadelphia firm, who makes it a point to present each woman who reaches the end of one hundred years of life with a similar cap, and this is only the fifth one they have had occasion to present.

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HON. H. L. DIEFFENBACH, of Lock Haven, the retired veteran editor, writes: "In concluding your article on Postmasters at Muncy, in the June number of *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL*, you seem to regret much that no information regarding that subject can be obtained dating before 1800. Were there postmasters or mail routes on the West Branch previous to that date? If there were, they were few and occasional. When a small boy, more than fifty years ago, I often heard vivid descriptions by the old people of the neighborhood, how John Binns, Andrew Kennedy and others, publishers of newspapers at Northumberland, and George Sweeney, Jonathan Lodge and others, publishers at Danville, distributed their papers over the country in person on horseback, carrying the packages in saddle bags, mostly without other roads than bridle paths. In many instances they left their packages for each locality at a tavern of the neighborhood, or at a distillery (then called a still house), which dotted the country all along the streams, and were favorite places of resort. These carrier-publishers were as a rule hospitably entertained wherever they stopped, without charge for man or beast. Governor Bigler often related to me how he carried his first papers in Clearfield County in the same manner."

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MAJOR CRAIG, in a letter to Timothy Pickering, Secretary of War, dated May 29, 1795, writes: "On the 22d instant a certain Ralph Rutledge, one of a party of four men on their way from Le Bœuf to Presque Isle, was killed and scalped within two miles of Presque Isle. The other three men are missing, and it is presumed they are also killed."

## NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

COLONEL SAMUEL SCHOCH, of Columbia, Pa., celebrated the 90th anniversary of his birth on the 28th of May, 1887, by paying a visit to Lancaster. He is a remarkably well preserved man, and looks as hale as do most men of 50 or 60 years. The Colonel gives fair promise of rounding out a full century of life.

JOHN BAKER, of Millersville, Lancaster County, is in the 95th year of his age and is in good health. Elizabeth Baker, a sister, who lives at Chestnut Hill, is in the 94th year of her age and is in excellent health. Jacob Baker, a brother, who also resides at Chestnut Hill, is in the 93d year of his age. Abram Brubaker, grandfather of H. Clay Brubaker, Esq., who resides at Millersville, is in the 91st year of his age, and is hale and hearty. Mrs. Polly Eshbach, widow of Christian Eshbach, who resides at Millersville, is in the 91st year of her age. For cases of remarkable longevity, the above are worthy of note.

ONE of the oldest residents of Williamsport is Mrs. Mary Pollock. She was born September 15, 1795, and is, therefore, well along in her 92d year. She is the widow of Fleming W. Pollock, who died several years ago. He was a brother of the late Dr. Samuel Pollock. Mrs. Pollock is a sister of Hon. James Armstrong, who lived and died in Williamsport many years ago.

ERASTUS MOREY, of Benezette, Elk County, Pa., was born in the town of Charlton, Worcester County, Mass., May 16, 1796, and on the 16th of May, 1887, celebrated the 91st anniversary of his birth. He settled on Bennett's Branch, near where he now lives, with his father in the spring of 1813, and to-day he is the oldest man in Elk County. They worked their way up the West Branch in canoes. His father kept daily notes of events transpiring at that early day, which Mr. Morey still has in his possession. Mr. Morey was the second postmaster at Bennett's Branch, his commission bearing date July 4, 1828.

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THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL for August will contain a carefully written biography of Governor Shulze, who lived for many years on a farm adjoining the borough of Montoursville. A history of the farm, never before written up, will be given.

## RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

JOHN CARLILE, who died at his home in Troutville, April 18, 1887, in the 85th year of his age, was one of the oldest settlers in Brady Township, Clearfield County. Deceased was a native of Lebanon County, where he was born in March, 1803. He was of Scotch-Irish parentage, and was married in 1823, and with his wife removed to Penn's Valley, Centre County, in 1825, where he was in the employ of William Irvin, father of the late William and John Irvin, of Curwensville. Their friendship was close and intimate through life. In 1828 or '29 the subject of our sketch moved with his family to near Luthersburgh, Brady Township, and settled on what is locally known as the Goodlander homestead, now in the possession of Daniel Goodlander. Here he made an improvement which he sold to the father of the senior editor in 1837, and removed to the village of Luthersburgh, where he resided until 1852, when he removed to Troutville, and carried on the mercantile business until 1875, since which period he has lived a retired life, enjoying its fullest extent. During the residence of the deceased at Luthersburgh, he served one term as County Commissioner and fifteen years as Justice of the Peace. Besides, if he was not the first, he was the second "Common School" teacher that ever taught in Brady Township. His wife, in her 82d year, survives him, as well as eleven children, among them Mrs. Dr. Boyer, of Troutville, and Mrs. Samuel Arnold, of Curwensville. George B. Goodlander, senior editor of the *Clearfield Republican*, personally knew the deceased for exactly fifty years, and testifies that strict integrity was the chief characteristic of his life, because it was his lot to often transact business with him officially and otherwise. He often heard the remark: "He was one of the best 'Squires Brady Township ever had." "That did not offend me," he remarks, "though I had served in that capacity too."

JONATHAN LACKEY died at his home at Albion, Erie County, April 29, 1887, aged 83 years and 15 days. He was born on Green Mountain, Vermont, and had been a resident of Elk creek Township for 55 years.

JOHN JONES, formerly a resident of Lewisburg, died in Brush Valley, March 30, 1887, aged 84 years, 9 months and 3 days.



W. C. RIPLEY, one of the pioneer settlers of Rutland Township, Bradford County, died on the 3d of April, 1887, aged 89 years. Mr. Ripley was called upon by his fellow citizens to hold offices of trust on several occasions, and he always discharged the duties faithfully and to the satisfaction of all.

MRS. ELIZABETH MILLER died in the borough of Huntingdon, on the 13th day of May, 1887, at the ripe age of 81 years, 5 months and 21 days. She was a daughter of Robert Allison, a prominent lawyer of Huntingdon, who, in 1830, was chosen to represent the Twelfth district, composed of the counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Centre and Clearfield, in Congress. Her husband, Benjamin Miller, a merchant, died many years ago. Three children survive: Dr. R. Allison Miller, Harry E. Miller and Mrs. Mary M. Neff.

CATHARINE AFRICA, familiarly called "Aunt Kitty," a maiden lady, died in the borough of Huntingdon on the 28th day of May, 1887, at the advanced age of 85 years. She resided all her life on the property from whence her remains were taken to their last resting place in the Huntingdon cemetery, followed by a large concourse of relatives and friends.

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FOR easy reference the following may be valuable to the reader: Pennsylvania's mean length is 280.39 miles; mean breadth, 158.05 miles; greatest length, 302 miles; greatest breadth, 175 miles and 192 perches. The sixty-seven counties of the State contain 45,086 square miles.

The latitude of Greenwich is 51 degrees 28 minutes 39 seconds North, and the latitude of Washington 38 degrees 53.3 minutes. The longitude of Philadelphia from Greenwich is 75 degrees 18 minutes West, and the longitude of Greenwich from Washington is 77 degrees 00.6 minutes East.

The latitude of the Capitol at Harrisburg, as ascertained by recent observations made by the United States Coast Survey, is 40 degrees 15 minutes 51 seconds; longitude, 40.3 seconds of time East of Washington, and 5 hours 7 minutes 31.9 seconds West of Greenwich.

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THOSE wishing to subscribe for THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL are informed that they can get the back numbers from the beginning. It is necessary to have all the numbers in order to make the volume complete.

ISAAC CRAIG, Esq., of Allegheny City, writes: In the May number of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL, in noticing the marriage of Jasper Graff and Susannah Mouse, you ask: "Whoever heard of a family named Mouse before?" In reply permit me to state that it is not an uncommon name in England, as you will find by referring to *Bardsley's English Surnames*, p. 492, and *Lower's Dictionary of Family Names of the United Kingdom*, p. 443; the last gives the name of Sarah Mouse. See also *Bowditch's Suffolk Surnames*, pp. 111 and 125.

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### THE PENNSYLVANIAN'S LAMENT.

A native of Pennsylvania, who recently wandered off West, became homesick, and this is the way he mourned in verse for the sweet "names" of his childhood in the Omaha *World*:

How sweet to my ears are the names of my childhood,

The names Pennsylvanians worship for aye,  
Aboriginal cognomens heard in the wildwood

When Indians traversed the Minnequa way—  
Tunkhannock, Tamaqua and Hockendauqua,

Tamanend, Tobyhanna and Tonawanda,  
Meshoppen, Tomensing and Catasaqua,

I love you, I greet you, sweet sounds of Pa.

How mountain and meadow, and rill and ravine,

The broad Susquehanna and Wyoming's ray,  
Spring forth in the landscape by memory seen—

The Lehigh, the Schuylkill and Lackawan-na,  
Lycoming, Shamokin, Monongahela,

Kittanning, Perkasio and Shenando-ah,  
Towamencin—another, not spelled the same way—

I love you, I greet you, sweet sounds of Pa.

The rivulets warble and cataracts roar

The names that I cherish wherever I stray—  
Manayunk, Conshohocken, Monocacy-more,

Nanticoke, Kittatinny, Shickshinny, Hey! Day!  
How heart leaps at mention of Catawis-sa,

Mahanoy, Nesquehoning, how soothing the lay!

Lackawaxen, Shackamaxon, Perkiomen—what, pray,  
Is sweeter than Mauch Chunk (Mockchunk, as they say).

I love you, I greet you, sweet sounds of Pa.





Gov. JOHN ANDREW SHULZE.

(AGED 77 YEARS.)

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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"Out of monuments, names, wordes, proverbs, traditions, private records, and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of booke, and the like, we doe save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time."—BACON.

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Vol. 1.

AUGUST, 1887.

No. 4.

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## GOVERNOR JOHN ANDREW SHULZE.

BY JOHN F. MEGINNESS.

JOHN ANDREW SHULZE, Governor of Pennsylvania under the Constitution of 1790, from December 16, 1823, to December 15, 1829, was born on the 19th of July, 1775, in Tulpehocken Township, \* Berks County. His father was a clergyman of the German Lutheran Church, and had several congregations to which he ministered. The son received his early instruction in English and German from his father. He was afterwards put to an institution in Lancaster, and while there was under the immediate care of his uncle, Dr. Henry Muhlenberg. He completed his preparation for college in York County, under the instruction of the Rev. Mr. Melsheimer. He received a finished classical education in the city of New York, and afterwards studied theology there with his uncle, Dr. Kunze, a celebrated divine of that day. In 1796 he was admitted as a member of the German Lutheran Synod, and was shortly afterwards ordained a minister in that church. For a period of six years he officiated as pastor of several congregations in Berks County, and was esteemed and loved by all who knew him.

In 1802 a rheumatic affection from which he had long suffered obliged him to suspend his labors in the ministry, and two years later, finding no improvement in his condition, he was induced to

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\* *Armour's Lives of the Governors of Pennsylvania*, p. 343.

seek another occupation. He accordingly entered upon mercantile business in the village of Myerstown (then Dauphin County), in which he continued for several years, accumulating a small fortune.

In 1806 he was elected a member of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, and was re-elected for the two succeeding years. He declined a fourth term. The journals show that he made an active and efficient member. The attention of Governor Snyder was attracted to him in 1813, and he appointed him Surveyor General of the State, but he declined. He then tendered him the position of Register, Recorder, Prothonotary, Clerk of the Orphans' Court, and Clerk in the Sessions Court of Lebanon County, which he accepted. He served very efficiently until the close of Governor Snyder's term, when he was recommissioned by Governor Findlay. In 1821, much against the wishes of his friends, he resigned, and in October of that year he was elected to represent Lebanon County in the lower house of the Legislature. The following year he was chosen a State Senator for Dauphin and Lebanon Counties by a large majority.

Before he had been in the Senate a year he was nominated for Governor by the Democrats, who then called themselves Republicans, and was declared elected by a majority of about 26,000 over Andrew Gregg, Federalist. In 1826 he was re-elected without recognized opposition, receiving nearly 73,000 votes out of 75,000 polled. His opponent was John Sergeant. It was during his administration that the system of public improvement was commenced, and if his prudent and cautious recommendations had been followed by the Legislature, to finish one line of canal before commencing another, the Commonwealth would have been saved from a large portion of the debt which afterwards weighed so heavily upon her citizens.

To Governor Shulze belongs the credit, which is usually accorded to his successor, of having been the first to advocate a general system of education. In his message of 1828 he advocated the system in strong language. Few Governors have left the executive chair with as large a share of personal popularity, and carrying with them into retirement less personal and political animosity towards them, than did the subject of this notice. Conservative in all his views, honest and straightforward in all his

acts, he commanded the confidence of the people and never abused it. His was not a brilliant, but a judicious, faithful and useful career. Unable to agree with all the measures of his party, he had the integrity and the independence to array himself against anything he conceived to be wrong. He was educated in the Jeffersonian school of politics, and was, therefore, in feeling and sentiment, an old school Republican. He favored all the conservative Republican measures, of which Jefferson, Madison and Monroe had been the champions. With his old party friends he came to differ, however, on the question of home protection, and after his retirement from office he became affiliated with the Anti-Masonic party in sentiment.

After his retirement from office in 1829 he removed to Lycoming County, and now begins the period in his history when the closing years of his life were saddened by financial and domestic troubles. In 1831 he purchased of John Cowden a tract of land in Fairfield Township, containing 500 acres and 16 perches, for \$12,000. The deed was acknowledged April 18, 1831, by John Cowden and Sarah his wife, before Israel Pleasants, a Justice of the Peace of Northumberland County, and it is recorded in Deed Book T, page 667, in the Recorder's office at Williamsport, under date of April 22, 1831. This splendid farm bordered on the eastern boundary of the borough of Montoursville. Soon after making the purchase he built a handsome brick dwelling house on the farm, which was regarded as a great improvement at that day. It was called "the Governor Shulze residence," and is known by that title at the present time.

As the purchase of this farm marked the beginning of the financial ruin of the ex-Governor, its history may not be out of place in this connection. It originally consisted of two tracts owned by Samuel Wallis. His administrators, John Wallis, Daniel Smith, William Ellis and John Adlum, deeded it on the 11th of June, 1801, to Colonel Samuel McLane. He in turn conveyed it on the 27th of June, 1803, to Abraham DuBois. On the 1st of May, 1805, DuBois sold it to Samuel Denman, who, on the 1st of November, 1811, conveyed it to Thomas Cadwalader. He conveyed it on the 4th of April, 1815, to John Cowden, a party thereto. Cowden had entered into articles of agreement with John

Faransworth on the 13th of May, 1813, for the sale of the tract, and agreed upon the payment of one-half of the purchase money to execute the same to Faransworth. The latter died without having received his deed, but left a will dated April 5, 1825, in which he gave full power to his executors to sell and convey any part or all. John Burrows and Charles Lloyd were his executors, but Lloyd was afterwards relieved from serving by the court. Burrows then entered into articles of agreement, on the 8th of August, 1830, to sell to Shulze, and the deed of transfer, in consideration of \$12,000, was duly perfected and signed by Cowden and wife on the 18th of April, 1831.

In 1839 he was elected a Senatorial delegate to the National Convention which assembled at Harrisburg to nominate candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, and was chosen one of the vice-presidents on that occasion. In the following year he was a member of the electoral college, of which he was unanimously chosen president.

In the management of his business the Governor was unfortunate. Through endorsing and other causes he became involved, and the more he struggled to get out of debt the deeper he got in. He was public spirited and liberal. He gave an acre of ground and \$100 to build a church. General Burrows subscribed \$200. It was built in 1838 or 1839, near the eastern borough limits of Montoursville. It was called the Union Church, because the Lutherans and Presbyterians had the privilege of using it. In later years it was called the "White Church," because of its color. The building still stands and is now used by the Grangers as a hall.

As years passed away the Governor became deeper involved in debt and he was harrassed with lawsuits. May 7, 1844, a judgment was entered against him in the court of Lycoming County, in favor of William Cameron, of Lewisburg, for \$3,835.49, upon which a writ of *fiere facias* was issued on the 1st of June to September term of the same year. Hugh Donnelly was sheriff and he levied upon the farm. An inquisition was held and the property condemned, and on the 9th of September, 1844, a writ of *venditioni exponas* was issued. On the 11th of September the court granted the sheriff leave to amend his levy so as to divide



the farm in two parts, and the levy was so amended. On the 15th of October, 1844, the sheriff sold the farm in two parts. One part, containing 254 acres and 101 perches, and a large two-story brick dwelling house, was purchased by John Ott Rockafellar for \$9,900, and the other part, containing 242 acres and 141 perches, with a large two-story dwelling house, bank barn, &c., was purchased by George Tomb, of Jersey Shore, for \$7,600, making altogether the sum of \$17,500. The Rockafellar portion was afterwards purchased by Oliver Watson, of Williamsport, and it has since changed hands. Tomb's heirs still own the other portion.

Having been sold out, the Governor was obliged to leave the property a ruined man. He took up his residence for a brief time in a house in Montoursville. George Bubb, president of the Lycoming National Bank, was present and assisted to move him. He says that when he reached the house in the village and looked back on his lost possessions, he stood in the door and shed tears. Huston Hepburn, who was deputy sheriff for Sheriff Riddell, remembers Governor Shulze well, as he was called upon several times to serve executions upon him. He always received him courteously and sadly informed him that he had nothing. There are many entries against him on the books in the Prothonotary's office, and many of the judgments and executions remain unsatisfied to this day.

Broken down in health and without means, the Governor moved his family to Lancaster in 1846, where he continued to reside in quiet retirement until his death, \* which occurred November 19, 1852, at the age of 77 years and 4 months. His remains lie in Woodward Hill Cemetery, near that city, and a handsome monument, erected in honor of him by his friends, points out to the visitor his resting place.

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\* Harris' Biographies of Residents of Lancaster County, p. 533.

[Governor Shulze had two sons and two daughters. Augustus A. was the eldest and Francis S. the youngest. The daughters were named Louisa and Wilhelmina. The latter married Martin Madison Moore. All of the family are dead but Augustus, who resides in Philadelphia.—ED.]

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THERE are 71 postoffices in Lycoming County and 48 in Northumberland.

## JOHN HAMILTON'S JOURNAL.

[The following journal gives an account of a voyage from Pine Creek, Clinton County, to Philadelphia, in a Union Canal boat, in the fall of 1839. John Rose was Captain, Samuel M. Simmons supercargo, John Hamilton served as bowsman and Isaac Smith Simmons as driver. The writer, now nearly 87 years of age, is still living at his home near Lock Haven.—ED.]

MONDAY, NOV. 11, 1839.—Left Northumberland at daylight; traveled nearly a South course through the counties of Union, Perry and Juniata. Passed the towns of Sunbury, Selinsgrove and Liverpool. The canal keeps the West side of the Susquehanna River, which breaks through the range of mountains transversely. The country has not a fruitful appearance. Three miles below Liverpool we passed a railroad, which runs nine miles up through Lykens Valley on the opposite side of the river. Met a packet in the morning; passed one in the evening. A little before sundown came in sight of Liverpool, a small town. A thick smoke came from all the chimneys as if all were kindling their fires at one time, perhaps for supper. Mr. Simmons inquired what the habits of the people were. He was answered: "To eat and drink as much as they can."

TUESDAY, NOV. 12.—Left New Buffalo, or Bachman's. Frosty morning. Course in the morning South; then Southeast. Passed out of Perry into Dauphin. Passed the Juniata Division. There was a very beautiful residence on the point of a large island\* above the mouth of the Juniata. Crossed to the East side of the

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\* Formerly called Juniata Island—then Duncan's Island, because a man named Duncan was the proprietor for many years. It was a favorite spot with the Indians. Two tribes once dwelt there. Tradition speaks of a great battle having been fought between the Delawares and Cayugas at an early day. It was so severely contested that the gullies ran red with the blood of the slain warriors, and the bodies of a thousand or more were buried on the field. The Delawares were defeated and driven away. When the canal was constructed hundreds of skeletons were exhumed. Rev. David Brainerd, the missionary, visited the Indians, who dwelt on the island, in 1745, but found them very savage and intractable. The earliest white settler was named Hulings. He came in 1746 and remained until about 1761, when he and his family were driven off by the Indians. The fine mansion stands on the highest point of the island and has been a conspicuous object for nearly a century. It is a substantial stone house of 20 or more rooms, grand in all its surroundings, which in early days was the headquarters for stage and packet passengers, under the hostelry of Mrs. Duncan. This house is built of river stone and rough cast finish. The walls are three

river. Passed the old Dauphin tannery. Took three ladies on board to go as far as Harrisburg, which point we reached at 2 o'clock. An appearance of much business going on here. Well supplied. Canal, railroad and turnpike. Four miles below Harrisburg met a locomotive, which frightened our horses into the canal and through it, breaking the towing line. The horses were stopped at a farmer's barn. Gathered up and started again, stopping for the night at Middletown. The country passed through seems fruitful and cultivated. Saw a field below Harrisburg cultivated in a singular way with some new plant.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13.—Left Middletown before day; took the Union Canal, which winds along the Swatara, the division between Dauphin and Lancaster Counties. A limestone country, hilly, but the hills low and tillable. Limestone nearly all along the canal; cedar trees, good stone buildings and no doubt good farms. Horses broke and ran off about one and a half miles; stopped by a boat driver; little damage done. About noon passed out of the limestone region. Handsome lime country to the right some distance from the creek. Passed out of the limestone into the slate; oak

feet thick; all partitions are two feet stone walls to second floor. With such massive walls it will stand for ages. The house was built for Robert Calandar Duncan, son of Judge Duncan, and his wife Rebecca Huling Duncan, granddaughter of Marcus Hulings, the founder of the island. Some of the original furniture of this grand old mansion is still in the possession of P. F. Duncan (grandson of Robert C. and Rebecca H. Duncan), of Duncannon, Pa. At the death of Robert C. Duncan the property went to Mrs. Duncan, and at her death in 1850 to Dr. Thomas and Benjamin Stiles Duncan, the former's interest being sold and bought by Benjamin Stiles Duncan. At his death, in 1870, it went to his heirs, namely: Mary L., Jane M., Priscy M. and P. F. Duncan. When the settlement was made P. F. Duncan took it at appraisement and since sold it to Thompson Derr, now deceased, of Wilkes-Barre, for \$30,000, whose estate still owns it. It is managed by William H. Richter as a stock and breeding farm. Under the present ownership it has been much improved, a large barn having been built at a cost of \$11,000. They also have a good race course of one-half mile. The large stone mansion is occupied by Mr. Richter and sister, who are a nephew and niece of the late Thompson Derr. Mrs. Duncan, with some outside support, built a Methodist church on the island, which was washed away by the 1865 flood. The older residents of the island are fast dwindling away. Of the older families there still remain Captain Samuel Garman, A. Lukens, George, Thomas and James Carpenter, the latter being the most successful river pilot plying between the headwaters and the sea. The floods of 1865, 1868, 1874, 1878 and lesser ones, have damaged the island to a great extent.

timber; neither hilly nor level. Plain, old-fashioned settlements. Many of the buildings log; barns thatched with straw; clay ovens; women scutching flax. Two or three o'clock we passed from Dauphin into Lebanon County. Same appearance of country. It looks like a settlement of good, old residents, ignorant of pride. The farmers seem disposed to leave small lots of timber stand. A good deal of timber for an old settled country. There is something in the appearance of this country, not in the natural face, but in the style of its improvements, that brings to "remembrance joys that are past." Log houses with whitewashed cracks, thatched barns; women at work out doors. Crossed the Swatara in the evening. Passed the water works and the Pine Grove feeder, which is navigable 18 or 20 miles. The water works are for throwing water into the Summit level. Went through 9 or 10 of the locks after dark. These 19 locks are all close together at the West end of the Summit level. Stopped for the night at 10 o'clock. The day has been pleasant. Traveled 34 miles.

THURSDAY, NOV. 14.—Started about daylight. Passed the remainder of the 19 locks into the Summit level—the Summit that divides the waters of the Susquehanna from those of the Schuylkill. Passed Lebanon. Foggy and drizzling; could not see the town; it is situated on the Summit, not on the highest ground. Limestone land; a beautiful country, almost level, the hills low. Buildings are more tasty; some very fine. Bank barns chiefly; many of them thatched with straw. Fence rows clean; very little corn cut up. Before we came to Lebanon we passed through the tunnel. Near the town we saw a very tasty garden with a glass house in it, the property of a Mr. Lehman. Soon began to descend towards the Schuylkill, down the Tulpehocken from its source. Canal very crooked, winding along the stream. Passed three stone houses in the course of the day, pretty large, and resembling each other, built about 100 years ago. In the evening passed from Lebanon into Berks County. Came 21 miles to-day. German settlements. The land is valued at \$100 an acre. Course East, or nearly so.

Manner of living in the boat not very regular. Sometimes we eat breakfast late, mostly one at a time, each one baking his own buckwheat cakes; take "a piece" for dinner; supper sometimes

before night, sometimes after. The locks on the Union Canal, as far as we have come, are built of hewn sandstone, good work, and handsomely coped; better work than in the Pennsylvania locks.

FRIDAY, NOV. 15.—Started a little before day. Our stopping place last night was within 14 miles of Reading by land and 26 by canal. Course East, but very serpentine. Country chiefly limestone. Good buildings; some very fine; stone with few exceptions. Passed two or three small old buildings covered with tile. As we descended the stream more elevated hills prevented a view of the country. It could be seen, however, that the timber was oak, except along the sides of the hills facing the stream. After traveling some time we saw pine, then some beach and hemlock, then cedar. The hills, though low, put up to the creek or river (a small stream for a creek), in some places abruptly exposing their limestone and slaty rock of some kind. Stone flouring mills every few miles. Drizzling, and rain in the forenoon, notwithstanding a pleasant day. Came to the Schuylkill a mile or two above Reading. Course East. Stopped for the night opposite Reading; 67 miles from Philadelphia. A break in the Union Canal made it necessary to take the Schuylkill.

SATURDAY, NOV. 16.—Started after daylight. Crossed the Schuylkill to the Reading side. Had but an imperfect view of Reading. Saw a number of steeples, a foundry and Keim's nail factory. Saw a locomotive with a train of cars starting for Philadelphia. Three or four miles below Reading crossed the Schuylkill to the South side.

The Schuylkill here is not much larger than Pine Creek. Saw cedar, some limestone; mountains at a distance, rocky and barren; some alluvial bottom: hills low and tillable; buildings chiefly of red sandstone, a few covered with tile. Mostly good bank barns; land from appearance not very good. The country has not that sociable and unpretending appearance that is in the country about the head of Swatara, and in Dauphin and Lebanon Counties.

At three o'clock we passed from Berks into Chester County. Montgomery County on the North side of the river. Distance from Reading, 18 miles. Passed Pottsgrove. It is made up of a few good looking houses. A short distance from it, handsomely situated on a hill, is a poor house, a handsome building. Both are

on the other side of the river in Montgomery County. Passed and met a number of Schuylkill boats employed in carrying coal from Pottsville to Philadelphia. Still in Chester County, on the North side of it. Stopped for the night within 32 miles of Philadelphia by water, and 28 by land. Came 34 miles. Four of us lodged in the boat cabin. Upper and nether bunk on each side and very little room in the middle. Rose is stretched on a bed made on a board elevated near the roof. The stove is on one side, the table is at one end, and there is very little room in the middle.

SUNDAY, NOV. 17.—Started in on another week about daylight. Passed a beautiful railroad bridge across the river, consisting of four arches built altogether of cut sandstone. It fronts the tunnel through a mountain four or five hundred feet high. The river, in running two or three miles, makes a turn past the other end of the tunnel. It looked odd to see the cars pitching straight through the mountain.

Crossed the river into Montgomery. Good buildings. Some of them fine. Crossed about noon back into Chester County. Stopped opposite Norristown, a handsome little manufacturing town, 16 miles from the city. Boats running thick. Horses, many of them, worried down. Humanity, if no other consideration, should stop the running of boats on the Sabbath; besides a large number of people are deprived of the influence of the Sabbath.

Staid at Norristown. In the evening went to preaching; first to the Presbyterian Church. Learning there would be no preaching there, Mr. Simmons and myself went to the Methodist. Their minister being from home, we directed our course to the Baptist, but finally got into the Episcopalian, a very fine building, beautifully furnished in the inside with splendid lamps. The minister appeared first in a white gown, then in a black—too much ceremony. Took his text in Acts: "Those times of ignorance God winked at, &c." Gave some important events in the history of Athens in a clear and something of an elegant style—gave a description of repentance, then explained more fully the character of true repentance, and illustrated from the parable of the prodigal son, and application. The organ and singers made good music; there were few that sang. Came home to lodge in the boat.

Norristown is a pretty clever town, 16 miles from Philadelphia,

connected with the city by a railroad, besides the one from Reading on the other side of the river. Buildings chiefly rough cast.

MONDAY, NOV. 18.—Sold and unloaded the wheat and started empty for Philadelphia, much of the way on the trot. Passed companies of Irishmen at work.

THURSDAY, NOV. 21.—Started from Vine street wharf, Philadelphia; crossed the river without difficulty. Delayed at the lock in consequence of an unusually low tide. Isaac Smith's boat ran aground on a gravel bar; just above broke our towing post and the horses got tangled in their gears on a towing path bridge; a hand went back to help Smith off. Landed at Norristown, or Bridgetown, opposite Norristown, 16 miles from Philadelphia. This is a manufacturing town. Just opposite is a large cotton factory, three stories high, 16 windows in the front of each story, handsomely illuminated. I was told that 72 females are employed in each story.

This day has been very cold; the ground frozen and the ice freezing on the bushes near the shore; very blustering, strong winds; the thermometer 8 degrees below freezing. A long distance from home this season of the year. How desirable its comforts. What a contrast is this cabin, and this employment! Nothing can compensate for the loss of the society of one's own family; at least when that family is the beloved.

FRIDAY, NOV. 22.—Started from Norristown. Isaac Smith's boat yet behind. Went two or three miles and waited an hour or two, and started again without the arrival of the boat. Stopped at the beginning of the twenty-two mile canal, as it is called, the navigation along this river being part slack water and part canal. Came 22 miles, 38 from Philadelphia. When we started this morning there was no ice. This afternoon the river in many places was frozen over three-fourths of an inch thick. This day was cold but not so windy. To-night the thermometer stands 6 or 7 below freezing.

SATURDAY, NOV. 23.—*Frozen up.* Thermometer 14 degrees below freezing. Isaac Smith's boat not yet arrived. Forenoon, a company of boats passed us, breaking through the ice. After waiting till near sundown, with much anxiety, undetermined almost

whether to go or stay, Isaac Smith's boat arrived. We then started and came about 18 miles and stopped between one and two o'clock in the morning. Started Sunday 24th and came to Reading. Hear the fiddle tuning up in some of the boats while I am writing this. A number of boats are waiting here in consequence of the ice in the Union Canal. A most unpleasant day, snowing and raining. Crossed the river from the Reading side and entered the Union Canal; it had been frozen up. This afternoon boats are beginning to run. Stopped before dark; raining; got a stable; raining to-night and thawing.

MONDAY, NOV. 25.—Started two or three hours before daylight; detained at the lock. Fed at dark, and started again. Smith, S., our boy driver, opposed starting, even to tears. Cold night. Comfortable in the cabin; a good stone coal fire in the little stove. A comfortable place to sleep in a cold night. To help the driver along I got out and walked with him.

TUESDAY, NOV. 26.—Cold, sharp morning. Started about daylight. About sunrise passed from Berks into Lebanon, 10½ miles below the town of Lebanon. Stopped with ice. Went on a mile or two and stopped within half a mile of the Summit. Some boats with difficulty got through the locks into the Summit level, and with the half of a flat meant to proceed to Lebanon, five miles from this.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27.—Within half a mile of the Summit. At the head of the Tulpehocken; stopped with ice. This morning more pleasant. A possibility of a thaw. Determined to wait another day.

THURSDAY, NOV. 28.—Pleasant day and thawing. Started in the afternoon behind some boats that broke the ice and got to Lebanon after dark. Froze that night.

FRIDAY, NOV. 29.—Doubtful about starting. Went down the canal three or four miles, to see the condition of the canal. The ice strong and from appearance difficult to break. Began thawing about noon. Concluded to start. Six boats in company; the ice hard to break; difficult to get through the locks after it was broken. Came five miles.

SATURDAY, NOV. 30.—Started in the morning. Six boats; gave



25 cents apiece for going before with a flat to break the ice two miles. Hard getting along till we came to the Pine Grove feeders, below which the canal was free from ice for some distance. Passed through part of Lebanon and Dauphin. Log houses with whitewashed cracks; red gable ends; some frame houses painted red; thatched barns; clay ovens. It has no lazy appearance. For some distance this side of Philadelphia rough cast houses were the rule, then red sandstone, then the more lively looking limestone, then the plain, honest log. Stopped within eight miles of Middletown.

SUNDAY, DEC. 1.—Sabbath, started before day; passed Middletown; came in view of the Susquehanna; anxious to stop, but overruled. Fed at Harrisburg. Dark before we came to the crossing of the Susquehanna. River higher than when we went down. Rose, the captain, expressed doubts of the propriety of crossing with our own towing line (the State has a large rope that is used when the river is high.) The captain thought the river was not too high. We struck in, but what was our surprise and alarm, when about one-third of the way across we found the ice broken up and running thick. Notwithstanding our breach of the Sabbath, I had the courage to look to Heaven for help, and sprang for a pole. We called to the driver, "steady." The boat almost stopped; we got through safe. If the rope had broken we would have gone over the dam.\* We got into the canal and were satisfied to stop for that day.

The greatest wisdom is implicit obedience to the command of God. If we had kept the Sabbath we would not have been exposed to this danger.

MONDAY, DEC. 2.—Detained two or three hours with low water below Liverpool. The rest of the day very fine going. After nine o'clock we were within an hour's drive of Selinsgrove. In the cabin thinking of home; can recollect William's features pretty distinctly, Isaac's less distinctly, Alexander's still less distinctly, and have almost forgotten how little Johnny looks. I can remember his little paddling motion up the embankment and across the bridge and out of sight; his wheeling and coming back again: his wheeling again and going across. Fine sport but dangerous.

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\* Known to boatmen and raftsmen as Green's dam.

The remainder of the trip was pleasant. Samuel Simmons and Isaac Smith left their boats in charge of the hands and returned home from the city by rail and stage. Smith's boat did not get up that fall.

Simmons and his wife were anxious and uneasy about their son, our little driver. They lived nearly half a mile from the canal. It was midnight when we reached Pine Creek. We blew the horn. Simmons and his wife were at the landing when we arrived. Home!

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## LOCAL HISTORY—ITS INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE.

BY EDITH C. BAILY, JERSEY SHORE.

**I**F, as the poet has said, "the proper study of mankind is man," the importance of the collection and preservation of local history cannot easily be overestimated. Creatures of one great Creator, a kindly interest in all members of the human family is natural, and, in its proper exercise, refining and ennobling to a high degree.

Inquiring closely into the intelligence brought from the ends of the earth, flashed over the magic ocean-buried cable, or the not less wonderful aerial telegraph, scattered in the million leaves turned off by the untiring press, it is of man in his doing, being, suffering, that we read. Earthquake or tornado, fire or flood, shipwreck or mine disaster, the festal wedding or the sad funeral, all are thrilling, interesting or heartrending, because of their relation to human life and prosperity. Tidings from the world at large come thus to us daily, and the person who reads but one weekly paper, and that not a very live one, is away behind the age, and in imminent danger of becoming that very unpleasant and uninteresting object, a human fossil. How strange, then, that in the clamor for news, local life and history should be neglected; yet the principle of this neglect is as old as our Christian faith, whose Founder, speaking as never man spake, said, "A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house." We are too apt to feel that in our own locality nothing of note or worthy of record can take place. The young professional man makes a better start in life away from home, and persons are less likely to be appre-

ciated in mental toil or literary work among those who have been their associates from childhood. Yet it is not for us to know what part of our local record will be called for as a part of general history, nor who of our own citizens is to be the one whom the King delighteth to honor. It seemed no great deed for Paul Revere to hang that lantern in the belfry of the Old North Church, yet its rays have flashed as far as the sound of the first gun at Lexington.

"Where once the embattled farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world."

Luke Varnum, the blacksmith's boy, left sadly at home from the war because of his lameness, builded better than he knew when he shod General Warner's horse, on an August day almost a century ago; for he saved the battle of Bennington for America, and gave his own modest name to history. Such acts, cherished by some careful hand, are but a few of many which give history its charm, as the fine touches in a picture give clearness and character to the whole.

The collection of local data and happenings by the way, is often regarded as evidence of eccentricity, a harmless diversion of the weak mind, yet there have been those in all ages whose refined and meditative natures cherish the quiet life close at hand, and delight to gather its many colored threads into one softly tinted web. Sir Walter's quaint Old Mortality has plenty of good company.

It is this faculty of seizing upon the interesting features of everyday life that gives to the works of our best writers their charm. Those who have read "The Strange Friend," "The Quaker Widow," and others of Bayard Taylor's delightful stories and poems, will recall the quaint speech, and the fidelity with which every scene of the quiet Quaker life is drawn. Cable, in his descriptions of the dreamy, uneventful and ignorant existence of the Acadians and Creoles in Louisiana, has taken the reading world by storm, depicting as he does with a master's hand that with which he is familiar, making no errors in the finest details.

The flora of any given locality is a most charming study, to one who will seek with the zeal of a true lover the haunts of our native flowers, ferns and shrubs, noting their habits and preferences, and their family traits and peculiarities. Of birds there are

enough to provide material for the enthusiasm of an ornithologist, and our rocks and hills will yield their secrets to those who search with knowledge.

Thus I have indicated the importance of local records; their systematic preservation is a debt we owe to future generations. We have heard of the old negro who said, "What I keer for posterity? Posterity nebber done nothin' for dis niggah." Possibly this feeling, unspoken, exists in other minds than that of Uncle Jonah. Yet it is more pleasant to imagine the people of the future looking over our well kept records with pleasure, feeling a family pride in the same, than that they should be obliged to make out our history by chance scraps found here and there, and by the traditions of the elders, which, while very entertaining, are not unfailingly exact.

We as Pennsylvanians have an inheritance not to be held lightly, a roll of honorable names; from William Penn, the Indian's friend, down a long line of true and brave, both men and women, who spared not counsel, treasure, life or limb, to make this Commonwealth a praise among the people. Our soil is sacred by the tears of the bereft; by the burial of the slain, by the joy of victory and the calm of peace; each foot of our heritage is holy ground, and to us nothing may henceforth be common or unworthy.

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### A PROLIFIC FAMILY.

LEWIS BRICKER, SR., of Greene County, Pa., had a very large family, and he determined to distribute them in the Western country \* where lands were cheap and he could provide them with farms. Accordingly he bought 1,600 acres of land in what is now Knox County, Ohio, and started the elder members of his family to it in the spring of 1810. Of the number were Peter, and George Lewis, his brother-in-law. They went out to that wilderness region, camped one night, and the next morning hitched up their teams and by noon were on their way back. They reported the country wild, and did not believe it ever would be settled. They saw many Indians and heard the owls hooting and the wolves howling all night; and, unaccustomed to such things,

\* Norton's History of Knox County, Ohio, published in 1862, p. 348.

they agreed with their wives to let the land go before they would risk their lives and their children in the Owl Creek region, \* which they believed to be the next thing to, if not altogether, the infernal regions. Their father, however, accustomed to frontier life, and knowing also the value of the lands in that country, determined in the fall to make another effort at settlement. Accordingly he sent out another delegation of his family and continued the work until he got into what is Liberty Township the following children: Peter, George, John, Jacob, David, Solomon, Lewis, Catharine, Rachel and Mrs. George Lewis, who in time peopled that wilderness, felled the forest and cultivated the ground. They multiplied by the "double rule of three." Peter Bricker had a dozen children, and George Lewis sixteen; George Bricker, eight; John Bricker, who followed them about a year later, six; Jacob, who joined them about 1813, five; David, who arrived about 1817, had six; Solomon arrived the same year and added eleven children; Lewis arrived in 1819 and had six. Catharine married John Conkle about 1827, and had six; Rachel married John Pruner and had seven. All of the original Brickers remarried in Liberty, except David, who resided in Morgan Township. George Lewis died many years ago. Of his sixteen children eleven were living recently. The descendants of the elder George remember when their father went to mill with a grist of corn and left his wife and family alone. They had nothing to eat, the Indians prowled about their cabin all night, and they expected to be massacred before morning. But three-quarters of a century have wrought a wonderful change upon the face of the country. It is now highly cultivated, rich, fair and beautiful to look upon, and the descendants of the sturdy pioneers from the rock-ribbed hills of Greene County can scarcely realize what has been accomplished in a period of time so comparatively brief. The hoot of the owl is no longer heard, and the dust of the savage has long since mingled with the soil.

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\* Mount Vernon, the capital of Knox County, is situated in this "region." It is noted for the number and elegance of its private residences, and manufacturing industries. The country is rich and thickly populated. It lies 45 miles North-east of Columbus.

## CURIOUS GRAVE STONE INSCRIPTIONS.

ON High Street, Middletown, are several old grave-yards long since abandoned. On the crumbling slabs of marble and tablets of red sandstone, sunken and out of place, and half hidden among rank weeds, are many quaint inscriptions, of which the following is a sample :

"In memory of Michael Shepler, born July 3, 1779, and died the 11th of December, 1833, aged 454 years, 5 months and 8 days."

The error in the age was probably made by the stone cutter, for it will be observed that the difference between 1779 and 1833 is just 54 years, and singularly enough the blunder has been on record for a period of 54 years.

In another abandoned old grave-yard, in the same town, a sunken and dilapidated slab is pointed out, which is thus inscribed :

"Here lies the body of Mary, daughter of William and Susan Mills, who departed this life on the 24th day of November, at 2 o'clock A. M., A. D., 1793, aged 28 years, 5 months, 2 weeks, 6 days and 13 hours."

The novel feature of this inscription is in marking the very hour of the death of the person over whom the tablet was erected.

A correspondent over the initials of "W. A. W.," in the *Harrisburg Telegraph* of May 28, 1887, writes: One hundred and fifty years ago, Conewago Presbyterian Church stood in a valley of that name, and not far from Little Conewago Creek, the dividing line between Lancaster and Dauphin Counties. The location is four or five miles east of Middletown, a quarter of a mile north of the "Harrisburg and Lancaster turnpike," and within the same distance of the little village of Gainsburg.

On visiting this spot a short time ago, in company with Hon. J. B. Rutherford, of Paxton Valley, we found in a wheat field on the farm now owned and occupied by John Allwine a plat of uncultivated ground, about 27 by 85 feet. It is not enclosed. This is what remains of the Conewago burying ground.

At one end of the plat there are the remains of a stone foundation—or, perhaps, the walls of a stone building—making an enclosure of about 10 by 18 feet. The stones are laid in mortar. On the southeast side the wall is still about two feet high—so high as to suggest the idea that the building may have been of stone ;

and the dimensions are such as to suggest the thought of the old-time "study house."

Within this enclosure stand several wild cherry trees and black haw bushes. The balance of the plat is in sod, with several sasafraas trees (8 or 10 inches in diameter) growing at the further end. Blackberry bushes are scattered all over it.

A number of small undressed stones are in position, as markers of graves. Near the wall, above mentioned, we found lying prostrate two entire head stones containing inscriptions. These are all there are on the ground. Scattered around are fragments of two others.

The older of the head stones is slate, and the inscription is in good state of preservation. In word and form it is as follows:

Here lyeth ye  
Body of John  
Dunbar, who  
Departed this life  
Oct. ye 5th, 1745,  
Aged 51 years.

The other is Hummelstown brown stone. Time and the action of the seasons and the elements have told much more severely on it. Some of the letters are very indistinct, but the inscription may be made out by even a less skillful than "Old Mortality," and is as follows:

In Memory of  
George Allison,  
Late husband of  
Frances Allison.  
He Dec'd. March 29,  
1790, Aged 61 years.  
Also  
Wm. Allison, son of  
the said Dec'd. he de-  
parted this life July  
18, 1792. Aged  
5 years.

We speak of these as the days of "Woman to the front!" But just think of it—an inscription on a tombstone of a hundred years ago reading, "Late husband of." Suggestive, that!

## OLD TIME IRON FURNACES.

THE Butler *Herald*, edited by Hon. Jacob Zeigler, says: "In 1827 there were six furnaces and one forge in this section of the State, viz., Bassenheim, Beaver County; Mt. Etna furnace and forge, Butler County; Bear Creek, Armstrong County; Oil Creek and Sandy Creek furnaces, Venango County. These works, like those who owned and operated them, have long since passed away and are scarcely remembered by any of the present living. Smelting the iron ore and running the metal into 'pigs' was then in its infancy, but like every other special industry the present witnesses in it such varied improvements that the primitive state of manufacturing iron is so swallowed up in modern gigantic operations that it is absolutely forgotten. There may be here or there a person who worked about some of these furnaces, but we doubt it. Should there be, however, we will venture to say, that while the recollection of those days may afford pleasing reflections they are nevertheless tinged with the sorrow that the old furnaces have gone into decay, the stacks fallen down, the charcoal man, the barrow man and the teamster dead, and nothing left but piles of cinders to tell that an iron industry once existed, in its simplest form, in this section. Progress is written on everything, and at this day common observation shows how industries of every character have determined into the hands of capitalists. In an early day iron furnaces of small capacity were in blast in Butler, Armstrong, Clarion and Venango Counties. The owners were content with a small production. This they hauled to the river, and in boats or flats floated it down to Pittsburgh where it was sold. With the money goods of the most substantial kind were purchased, including a few gaudy ribbons and other notions suitable for girls whose fathers and brothers worked either in the ore banks or in and about the furnaces; ham, flitch, salt mackerel and dried herring, all of which were taken up the river on keel boats to some convenient landing and then by wagons to the country furnace store. But they are now things of the past. The world moves on, and the people have moved so fast with it that country furnaces and the scenes enacted around them and in them exist only in memory, and scarcely there."



THE excavation for the foundation of the new steel plant to be erected at Danville has reached a depth of 27 feet from the surface. The *Intelligencer* reports that solid slate rock was reached at that depth, which was necessary to have a firm base for the heavy structure to be built on it. The various kinds of soil passed through to reach that depth show a curious formation. The first is a black swamp muck of 2 feet, then a kind of brick clay,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet; then blue potter's clay, 2 feet to 3 feet, followed by 7 feet of fine gravel, succeeded by a layer of about 2 feet of coarse round river stones, under which was found a 7 foot belt of fine white sand, beneath which was reached the bed of slate rock. About 24 feet beneath the surface the excavators found the trunks of several large trees, one measuring in diameter 3 feet across the butt, while through the adjacent soil were strewn well preserved acorns, butternuts, etc. The conclusion must be reached that these imbedded tree trunks were the remains of a primeval forest that once flourished in the far distant ages, and was overwhelmed and covered up by the debris of a gigantic flood that swept through the gorge of the Susquehanna. Then came accumulation after accumulation, until was formed the ridge upon which Danville stands.

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## THE SINGER AND THE SONG.

MISS H. R. HUDSON, IN HARPER'S.

THE rapture of a song  
Rose over crowded ways,  
And thrilled the passive days,  
And stirred the idle throng.

I sought the singer long,  
And found—a grass-grown grave,  
With naught to mark it, save  
The memory of a song.

The happy flowerets, wed  
To June, were blooming nigh;  
Infinite heights of sky  
Were glad above the dead.

Low in my heart I said,  
"What need of lettered stone?  
The singer died unknown,  
And the song lives instead."

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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WILLIAMSPORT, AUGUST, 1887.

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## VERY LONG OWNERSHIP.

The lot of ground, Nos. 320 and 322 Penn Street, and extending to Alleghany Street, in the borough of Huntingdon, where Hon. J. Simpson Africa now resides, has been in the occupancy of his family for ninety-six years. Michael Africa, grandfather of the present owner, moved from York County, Pennsylvania, to Huntingdon in the spring of 1791, and on the 4th day of November of that year purchased the property. The title papers indicate that a house was built on the Alleghany Street front in 1775, which was removed in October, 1859. It was the oldest house then standing in the borough and Mr. Africa had an "ambrotype" taken of it just before the work of demolition was commenced. An engraving was subsequently made and inserted in the "History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties."

These lots in the original plot are subject to an annual ground rent of \$1 each. The deeds from the proprietor reserved the rent and contained a condition that the purchaser should within three years "make, erect, build and finish on said lot of ground one substantial dwelling house of the dimensions of eighteen feet by twenty-four at least, with a good stone or brick chimney," &c. &c. Mr. Africa has the ground rent receipts from the first Monday of September, 1775, down to date, excepting one here and there lost in transmission from hand to hand. Paper money was not received. The proprietor could exact annually, "*One Spanish milled piece of eight* of fine silver, weighing seventeen penny

weights and six grains at least, or value thereof in lawful money of this State." A bill of sale dated the 15th of April, 1785, evidently drawn by some one of German extraction, describes the property thus: "A certain House and Lot of ground Situate in the Town of Huntingdon or Standing Stone."

It is rare in towns in Central Pennsylvania to find the title and occupancy of real estate to remain so long in one family. Six generations of the family have from time to time made this property their home.

Hugh Crawford, who became an officer in the Provincial service in the early Indian wars, was the first white claimant of the land upon which Huntingdon stands. Rev. William Smith, D. D., provost of the College of Philadelphia (now University of Pennsylvania), laid out a town in 1767 and gave it the name it now bears. For many years before it was known as "Standing Stone." A borough charter was granted March 29, 1796. The county of Huntingdon was erected from Bedford by act of the General Assembly passed September 20, 1787. To-day Huntingdon has about 500 taxables and the value of its real estate is \$913,000.

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## THE FIRST MAIL TO FRANKLIN AND ERIE.

Under date of August 15, 1795, Major Craig writes to Colonel Stephen Rochefontaine, Commandant of Fort Presqu' Isle: "It is found necessary to establish a regular communication between this Post (Fort Pitt) and Presque Isle, and I am now making arrangements for a weekly mail to arrive at Presque Isle on Thursday the 27th instant, and on the same day of every week afterwards unless it should be found from experience necessary to make alterations in this business." Under the same date Major Craig wrote to Frederick Haymaker at Cassawago: "It is found necessary to establish a regular communication between this place and Presque Isle, and in order to carry this business more effectually into execution, you are hereby directed to engage two good men in whom full confidence can be placed to carry a weekly mail from Fort Franklin to Presque Isle; one of these men will attend at Fort Franklin on Monday evening, the 24th instant, and receive the mail from Pittsburg which he will on Tuesday deliver to you at

Cassawago; you are then to dispatch the other man with the mail to Le Bœuf at which place he will arrive on Wednesday and proceed on to Presque Isle on Thursday where he will deliver the mail to the Quarter Master, wait for the dispatches being made up and return to Le Bœuf on Friday, to Cassawago on Saturday, where the mail is to be put into the hands of the other runner who will on Sunday deliver it to the Quarter Master at Fort Franklin, and there wait the arrival of the mail from Pittsburgh. The compensation for the above service not to exceed that made to the men employed as spies, viz.,  $83\frac{1}{2}$  cents equal to 6-3 per day, the men finding their own provisions, &c."

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### ONE HUNDRED YEARS.

On the 28th of June, 1887, Mrs. Eleanor McConnell, residing in Hanover Township, Washington County, attained her 100th year. She was born in Uniontown, June 28, 1787, and experienced all the trials and adventures that usually came to the early settlers in Western Pennsylvania. Her father, August Moore, came from Ireland many years before, and settling in the East, had finally moved to the frontier, as that part of the country was then called. Her mother's name was Belinda Dawson, and her grandfather was also grandfather of the Hon. John L. Dawson. The Moores and Dawsons are now numerous in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio. In 1807 Mr. Moore removed to Hanover Township. It was here that Mrs. McConnell was united in marriage with her husband, Mr. John McConnell. At the period of their marriage it is said they suffered from the depredations of hostile Indians, and were on their wedding day compelled to take refuge in the great wooden block-house erected in the township. Her husband owned much farm land, and to store away his harvests he built the first barn in Washington County. When the slavery question began to agitate the country he became a leader among the Abolitionists in the Western portion of the State. Mr. McConnell died in 1879, aged 97. Mrs. McConnell has been for eighty-six years, or since October, 1801, a member of the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in the township, and is warmly attached to the church. She is the mother of a large family, and has lived to see seven generations of her kindred—from her grandfather to her great-great-grand-

children. She has eight children living. They are John McConnell, of Paris, Pa.; Belinda, wife of W. W. Porter, of Uhrichsville, O.; Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston, of Pittsburgh; James McConnell, of West Virginia; Assenarth Ann, wife of W. Blair, Burgettstown; Mrs. Mary Brocks, Pittsburgh; Dr. W. H. McConnell, Portage, O., and Mrs. Hannah Lockhart, of Hanover Township. Her grandchildren and their descendants will number seventy-eight. Mrs. McConnell still retains all her mental faculties to a remarkable degree. At 95 years she made a log-cabin quilt which took the first prize at the Burgettstown fair and is still in possession of the family.

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MENTION was made in the June number of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL of the death at Muncy of Henry Harris, a venerable colored man, who was born in slavery in 1800. It was also said that he purchased his freedom from his owner, the elder Senator Bayard, of Delaware, father of the present Secretary of State. This assertion is denied by Mr. Bayard, who, in a letter to Mr. Brice, editor of the *Sunbury News*, says:

SIR: He was purchased by my father about 1832, and was by him emancipated freely and without the slightest cost at the end of eight years. After his emancipation he remained a servant, receiving wages, in my father's family until he went to Philadelphia, where his career was marked by strange and sad vicissitudes that made him an object of pity and charity. The whole story of the purchase of his freedom is without foundation, he never paying one cent in any way to acquire it; and, except during the period when he was working for wages as a domestic servant, his inability to take care of himself brought him into great sorrow and trouble. His "slavery," so-called, was almost nominal, for during that period he made frequent visits to my mother's family in Philadelphia, where he went and came almost at will.

Very respectfully yours,

T. F. BAYARD.

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IN the article on "Slavery in the West Branch Valley," printed in the June number of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL, it was stated that John Knox, who settled near the mouth of Larry's Creek, owned slaves. Mrs. Jane Russell, his daughter, who resides in Jersey Shore, says that her father never owned slaves. He had, on the contrary, much sympathy for the negroes and always employed them about his place. This fact probably gave rise to the impression that he was a slave-holder.

## LITERARY NOTES.

REV. T. J. FREDERICK recently published a pamphlet of fifty pages giving a *Historical Sketch of the Lutheran Churches in Nippenose Valley*, which is a valuable contribution to local history. The subject matter was originally delivered as a sermon in the Valley Churches, of which he is the pastor. The trials and tribulations of the early settlers are described, and the various ministers who labored in the valley are named. Copies can be obtained by addressing the author at Oriole, Lycoming County, Pa.

REV. J. P. BULL has just issued in handsome style, at Towanda, his little volume of one hundred pages, entitled *Pulpit and Pew of Western Bradford*. It is illustrated with three portraits of prominent clergymen, Rev. W. S. St. Clair, Rev. A. S. Morrison and Rev. Joel Jewell. The book, which is gotten up on an entirely new plan, embraces a history of each of the churches of Western Bradford, which is intrinsically valuable, and the information of which cannot be found elsewhere. It also embraces a number of the author's dialect poems, which have attracted wide attention and have appeared in various quarters. He has embraced a description of "*Troy's Temples*," "*Canton's Congregations*" and "*The Regions Beyond*," which includes the churches of the townships of Canton, LeRoy, Granville, Armenia, Columbia, Springfield, Burlington, West Burlington, South Creek and Wells. These sketches are well and suggestively written, and will be prized by those obtaining the book. The dialect poems are a real attraction and show the talents of the versatile author in a pleasing light.

REV. A. A. LAMBING, A. M., of Wilkinsburg, Pa., recently translated the Register of Fort Duquesne from the French and issued it in a neat pamphlet of a hundred pages. The Register embraces the period between July, 1753, and December, 1758, and the French text is printed on alternate pages. The learned author has given an introductory essay and copious notes, which greatly enriches the work. A few copies are yet on hand. Price, \$1.

A CURIOUS little volume, entitled *Extempore on a Wagon*, has just appeared from the Lancaster *Intelligencer* press. It is a me-

trical narrative, translated from the German, of a journey from Bethlehem to the Indian Town of Goshen, Ohio, in the autumn of 1803, by George Henry Loskiel, Moravian Bishop. It is published by Samuel H. Zahm & Co., of Lancaster.

D. B. LANDIS, of Lancaster, is compiling a history of the Landis relationship in Lancaster County from its earliest period. He will devote considerable time in properly preparing it for the press, and asks the co-operation of all the Landis to be found in the country. He deserves credit for his undertaking, which is no easy task.

DR. W. H. EGLE, State Librarian, is contributing a series of valuable biographical sketches of members of the Constitutional Convention, of 1787, to the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History*.

HON. M. S. QUAY, United States Senator elect, has promised THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL an article on Old Fort McIntosh soon.

DR. GEORGE G. WOOD is preparing a paper on the Indian antiquities of Muncy Valley.

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### NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

EDITH C. BAILY, of Jersey Shore, writes: John Hamilton was born in Pine Creek Township, Clinton County (then Lycoming County), in October, 1800. She says: He was one of a family of eleven children, whose parents were persons of great intelligence, benevolent and religious. It is said of the mother of Mr. Hamilton, in whose school days girls were not expected to proceed farther than the "three R's, reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic," startled the school by bringing a geography; just think, a geography, and insisted upon studying therein, a feat considered far too strong-minded for one of the weaker sex.

Mr. Hamilton received his education in such schools as were kept at that day near his home. Naturally thoughtful and studious, his education continued after the boy became a man, and in the toils and cares of increasing years, he has found society and resource in the books of his choice, and in his own well stored mind. An original and independent thinker, he has made public and national affairs a study, holding intelligent views on the great questions of the day. A man of fearless spirit and high religious

principle, he has not paused to ask as to the popularity of any cause or movement, but only as to its righteousness. It is of such material as this that martyrs are made. He was an anti-slavery man when to be such was to be evil spoken of, cold shouldered, esteemed a fanatic, or, as more modern phrase puts it, a crank. Doubtless our friend had his full share of such unpalatable diet; doubtless advice was plentifully poured out as to moderation, and the great unwisdom of advocating a cause so unpopular, but just as surely as he believed in the right, so steadily did he bear testimony against the wrong, while his far-reaching vision saw the time when by tears and by blood only the cause might be removed.

Mr. Hamilton is a man of large sympathy and kindly heart, ever ready to succor the needy and him that hath no helper. The wrongs of the Indian have ever been a sorrow to him, and in their evangelization he takes the interest of a philanthropist, as well as the added personal feeling for the work of a brother, Rev. William Hamilton, who has labored in Nebraska for fifty years among this people, so darkly sinned against.

An old time Whig, later he naturally became a Republican, with which party he is identified. By early training and choice a Presbyterian, in life and example he is more and better, a consistent Christian, a thorough temperance man, whose good works are known of all. A friend at my elbow says that if he were not so good a Presbyterian he would have made an excellent Quaker, and indeed the sight of that venerable form, now bowing with the weight of so many years, and the mild, thoughtful face, is very suggestive of the old friends who face the meeting, and shake hands to indicate its close.

Mr. Hamilton has resided all his life on his farm, near the old home where he was born. He was twice married, his first wife being a daughter of Isaac Smith, a prominent citizen; his present wife was Miss Allen, of Clinton County. Of his seven sons, two served during the war for the Union, the older of whom suffered both wounds and imprisonment; the younger laid down his brave young life in one of the later battles.

RALPH ELLIOT, a retired merchant of Williamsport, was born November 22, 1798, in the town of Fritlick, County Tyrone, Ire-



land. In 1812 he came to the United States with his parents in the sailing ship *Radies*. The voyage occupied twenty-seven days, and for three days and nights they were in an ice floe. They landed in New York May 2, 1812. His father settled in Kensington, at that time a suburb of Philadelphia, and there the subject of this sketch worked in a cotton factory for one dollar a week for six months. He afterwards went to school and did light chores on his father's farm for some years. In 1820 he came to Williamsport and settled in Newberry, which then bid fair to become an important town. He opened a store, which he carried on for two years, and then removed to Williamsport in 1822, and built a brick house on the corner of Third and Court streets, where he carried on the mercantile business until 1841. May 22, 1832, he married Miss Mary Gibson, daughter of William Gibson, of Armstrong Township, Lycoming County. Six children were the fruits of this union, all of whom are living. In 1841 he moved on a farm beautifully situated on the banks of the West Branch of the Susquehanna, in Armstrong Township. March 1, 1855, his wife died. In 1864 he sold his farm to John McRea, of Oil City, and moved into Williamsport. Two years later (1866) he purchased the large brick house he now occupies, on the corner of Third Street and Market Square. It was built by Judge Hepburn and is one of the landmarks of the city. Mr. Elliot united with the First Presbyterian Church in 1867, and on the 12th of December, 1872, he married Miss Elizabeth Fritz, daughter of John Fritz, deceased, formerly of Williamsport. Mr. Elliot is 88 years and nearly 8 months old and enjoys reasonably good health for his age. His mother was 92 years old when she died.

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LEVELS above mean tide in the Atlantic Ocean, at Huntingdon and vicinity:

	Feet.
Track of P. R. R. at Huntingdon Station.....	621
Summit of Terrace Mt. South of Huntingdon.....	1652
“ “ Tuscarora Mt. South of Huntingdon.....	1926
Broad Top City, Huntingdon County.....	1997
Summit of Grave Mt. South of Huntingdon.....	2170
“ “ Round Knob “ “ “ “ .....	2304
“ “ Tussey's Mountain S. W. “ .....	2328
“ “ Jack's Mt. North of Juniata River.....	2354

## RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

MRS. RACHEL HUMPTON, who died at the residence of her daughter, in Jersey Shore, on the 8th of June, 1887, had attained the ripe age of 89 years, 5 months and 23 days. She was a native of Sadsbury Township, Chester County. Her faculties were wonderfully preserved up to the time of her death, and slowly was the earthly tabernacle dissolved.

JOHN ARMSTRONG REED, the "oldest inhabitant" of Lewisburg, died in that place June 18, 1887, aged 90 years and 29 days. He was born May 19, 1797, on a farm near Pottsgrove, Northumberland County, and settled in Lewisburg in 1819. In early life he learned the trade of a plasterer at Milton, and when he died twenty-four of his relatives followed the same occupation. His father, William Reed, was an officer in the Revolutionary army and was with a party that started to the relief of Wyoming before the massacre. They were within a few miles of the place when the Indians commenced their bloody work. Mr. Reed's family were among the earliest settlers in the West Branch Valley. His grandfather lived near where Lock Haven now stands when the French and Indian war broke out. It is related that at one time the Indians came upon the family so suddenly that they had barely time to escape. In their hurry to get away deceased's aunt, then a babe, was left asleep under a large upturned kettle. As the savages rushed up they struck the kettle with their tomahawks, but did not discover the infant. She was afterwards found unharmed and lived to reach the age of 93 years.

IN THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL for June brief mention was made of the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Africa, the oldest resident in the borough of Huntingdon. Since that publication was made fuller information concerning the history of that remarkable lady has been received from a trusted friend. He says: "She died on the 10th of April, 1887. Her eyesight was never impaired and up to within a few days prior to her death she moved about the house and garden performing light duties that she had been long accustomed to. On Sunday afternoon, a few hours before her demise, she received visits from numerous friends and conversed with them. Her death was calm and peaceful.

"The maiden name of this estimable lady was Masters. She was born on the 10th day of May, 1790, at some point on the Susquehanna River below Harrisburg, but her parents having removed when she was quite young, she was not able to recollect the exact place of her birth. Her father was a miller and she remembered of the family living at Clear Spring, Md., and afterward at Green Castle, Pa. At the latter place she met John Africa, to whom she was married when at the age of 28 years, then went with her husband to Huntingdon, where she spent the remainder of her life. Her husband, John Africa, was born in York County, but when two years old was taken by his parents to Huntingdon. On reaching manhood he became employed as a wagoner in conveying the products of the Juniata region to Baltimore and Philadelphia and merchandise on return trips. He died on the 18th day of April, 1876, in his 86th year.

"Both husband and wife united with the Reformed church and remained consistent members during the remainder of their sojourn on earth. Five children were born to them, viz., Henry, now deceased; William, a well-known baggage master on the Pennsylvania Railroad; Mary Ann, Jacob S., a merchant, and Catharine, wife of Henry Snare."

JAMES JOHNSON died at his home in Greenwood Township, Clearfield County, June 28, 1887, aged 80 years, 11 months and 18 days. The *Clearfield Republican* says he was the eldest of five sons of Samuel Johnson, who was born in York County in 1781, and who became a resident of Centre and later of Clearfield County along about 1812. Nine children were born to him—five sons, James, Elah, John, William F., and Garretson; and four daughters—Elizabeth, Thirza, Nancy and Hannah. John, Hannah and Mr. Johnson's wife died in 1824, leaving him with seven children to mourn the loss of his wife and children. In 1851 he removed to the State of Indiana, where he and his son Garretson died, the latter in 1861 and the former in 1863, aged 82 years. Two of his daughters, Elizabeth and Thirza, removed to the State of Illinois, while the third one remains in DuBois, Clearfield County, the wife of Mr. Patrick Dailey.

James was married to Miss Sarah Stugart, daughter of John Stugart, on the 21st day of April, 1835, and was the father of nine

children—six sons and three daughters—William P., John S., David H., Matthew W., James A., Francis D., Hannah, Eliza and Elizabeth, all of whom are now living with the exception of Eliza, who died in 1848. His aged wife survives him. The body of the deceased was laid to rest on the farm formerly owned by him, but at present by one of his sons, a place he selected many years ago, and his wish was carried out to the last. But one son remains of this family—Elah Johnson—who lives in Greenwood Township.

RICHARD O'CONNOR, of Ridgebury Township, Bradford County, died June 1, 1887, aged 103 years. Deceased had lived in that township 45 years. When he settled there the neighborhood was nothing more than a wilderness, there being very few settlers ahead of him. He and his wife and children pushed forward with industrious and willing hands, and within a few years carved out of the forest a fine and productive farm.

REUBEN DERBY, mention of whom was made on page 29 of the May number, joined the great majority on the morning of July 3, 1887, aged 93 years, 3 months and 11 days. He retained his faculties up to the close. Mr. Derby was the oldest known resident of Williamsport.

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MAJOR ISAAC CRAIG, quartermaster at Fort Pitt, in a letter to Lieutenant John Polhemus, commandant of Fort Franklin, dated Pittsburg, May 10, 1794, writes: "Doct. Belfour has sent a keg of oysters to my care for you, which shall be sent you by the first conveyance." These were the first oysters received at Franklin.

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PHILADELPHIA has the smallest area of any county in the Commonwealth. It only has 130 square miles, but then it has the largest population.

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THE Indian village known to the English as Kittanning, was destroyed by Colonel John Armstrong, September 8, 1756.

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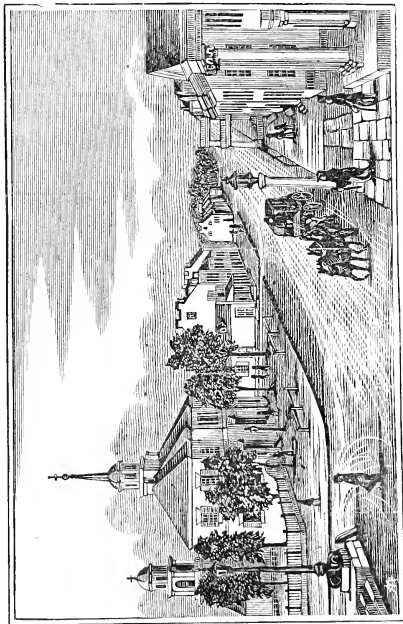
THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL will soon publish a transcript of the first assessment of the Borough of Williamsport.

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THE French word "Presqu' Isle," used when referring to where Erie now stands, simply means a peninsula.

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Appearance of the Central Part of Williamsport 45 Years Ago.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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"Out of monuments, names, wordes, proverbs, traditions, private records, and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of bookes, and the like, we doe save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time."—BACON.

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SEPTEMBER, 1887.

No. 5.

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## JOURNAL OF SAMUEL MACLAY,

1790.

[On April 9, 1790, Samuel Maclay, Timothy Matlack and John Adlam were commissioned by the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania to examine the head waters of the Susquehanna, explore the streams of the New Purchase, i. e. the Northwestern section of the State lately purchased from the Indians, and to discover if possible a route for a road to connect the waters of the Allegheny with the West Branch of the Susquehanna. Samuel Maclay was born June 17, 1741, in Lurgan Township, Franklin County. Little is known of his early life. In 1767-8 he was employed as a deputy surveyor for his brother, Hon. William Maclay. In 1769 he appears as an assistant to his brother on the surveys of the officer's tract in Buffalo Valley. He surveyed largely in what is now Mifflin County, and took up a good deal of land there. Mr. Maclay was Lieutenant Colonel of a Battalion of Associators, and as such was a delegate, with McLanahan, Geddes and Brady, to the convention at Lancaster, July 4, 1776, which elected two brigadiers and organized the Associators, the then militia of the State. In 1792 he was appointed one of the associate judges of Northumberland County, and resigned December 17, 1795. In October, 1794, he was a candidate for Congress and carried the county by 1,100 majority. The vote was only 2,850. In Buffalo he had 464, to 14 for his opponent, John Andre Hanna. He served for the years 1795-6. On the 2d of December, 1801, Mr. Maclay was elected Speaker of the Senate, and re-elected December 7, 1802. On the 14th he was elected United States Senator, and, being Speaker, had to sign his own certificate. In January, 1803, he presided at the impeachment trial of Judge Addison, and continued acting as Speaker—against the protest of the opposition, however, after March—until March 16th, when he resigned that position, and on the 2d of September his position as State Senator. He resigned his seat in the United States Senate on the 4th of January, 1809. Mr. Maclay was very popular in his manners, a good scholar and writer. He had an extensive library containing many valuable books. He was always of the people and for the people, plain and simple in his

manner, disliking ostentation. It is related of him that on one occasion he brought a handsome coach home from Lancaster, and the family took it to Buffalo Church next Sabbath. He noticed the impression it made on the people, and that coach never left the carriage house again. It rotted down where it was put away that Sunday evening. He was a large man, resembling Henry Clay very much, though much stouter in later years. Mr. Maclay's wife was Elizabeth Plunkett, born in 1755, whose lineage is traceable to John Harris, senior. Mrs. Maclay died in 1823. Mr. Maclay died at his residence in Buffalo Valley October 5, 1811, aged 70 years, 3 months and 18 days, and was buried on his farm. The brick wall enclosing the grave is within sight from the turnpike, after passing the New Berlin road, a short distance West of Lewisburg. A handsome monument marks his last resting place.—*Linn's Annals of Buffalo Valley*, pp. 401-2-3-4.

Mr. Maclay's diary begins with his departure from Buffalo Valley down the Susquehanna. After reaching the Swatara, he was to ascend that stream to Lebanon and there meet the other commissioners.]

Memoran'm, April, 1790.—The\* 20th, 21st, 22d, 23d, 24th spent in providing for the Expedition, enquiring for hands, Boat, &c.

On the 26th.—Started with James McLaughlin's Boat; he and Edward Sweney and Matthew Gray taken into pay.

TUESDAY 27th.—Expences at Herold's for four Breakfasts and one quart whiskey £0, 5s, 2d.

HARRISBURG, April 29th.—Cash paid for one-half pint Gin (£)0, 1s, 0d.

MIDDLETOWN, April 27th.—At night. Supper, Lodgings and Breakfast for three men, paid Wolfley 9s, 11d.

The 28th.—Attempted to go up the Suatara with the Boat. Got the Boat over Mr. Fry's Mill Dam; the day grew so stormey that I was obliged to return to Middletown. Bought a Gammon of Bacon from Mr. Fry but were unable to Eat it; the hog must have had the measels. Paid at Fry's and Wolfley's 4s.

APRIL 29th.—Set off from Middletown early in the morning; found the Suatara in Good Boatable order, and in General Good Boatable water from George Fry's Dam. The only inconvenience is the Bottom, Rocky and smooth; the men often missed their set.

\* Mr. Maclay paid little regard to punctuation and was careless in spelling. The first word in many of his sentences begins with a small letter. For the sake of appearance and connection this defect and that of punctuation have been remedied in copying. Otherwise the text strictly follows the original in orthography.



We stopped at a house about three o'clock and got a hasty Dinner of Bacon & Eggs for which I paid 2s, 6d.

We reached the mouth of the Quitapahela\* a little Before sunset; took our Boat about a fourth of a mile up it and stoped for the night.

APRIL 30th.—Took an early Breakfast for which I paid 3s, 9d. Left our boat and Baggage. Started on foot, took nearly an East corse, came to the Quitapahela in about one mile; its corse then Nearly N. W. It appeared to be sufficient in depth to carry a Boat of about 5 ton Burden; the current appeared to be Brisk in general all the way up to John Myer's mill dam. This dam is Raised about 6 feet and dams the water up as high as the foording at the west end of Millerstown which foording is about 20 perches Below the dam of Old's Ironworks; there we took the Road. There is another Mill dam opposite Millers town which Belongs to Abraham Regile. Nine o'clock. Stoped at the Sign of the Boar in Millers Town at James Long's. Drank 2 quarts of Syder for which I paid 1s, 9d. Started again and came to Lebanon at one o'clock. Got dinner but heard nothing from the commissioner (s).

MAY 1st.—Waited until after Dinner, then walked Down the Reading Road but could neither hear from or see the commissioners. Returned, waited, and kept looking out but to no effect. About sunset Capt'n Moore arrived from Philadelphia. Sent the Landlord Grenawalt to inquire at Capt'n Moore; he returned and informed me that Capt'n Moore had seen Col'n Matlack† in Phila-

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\*The Quitapahilla is a branch of the Big Swatara in Lebanon County. According to Heckewelder it is corrupted from *Cuitpehella*, or *Cuwitpehella*, signifying, in the Delaware Indian dialect, a spring that flows from the ground among pines.

†Timothy Matlack was born of Quaker parentage at Haddonfield, New Jersey, in 1730. At an early period he settled in Philadelphia. After the Revolution we find him a prominent member of the Society of Free Quakers, and chiefly instrumental in building the meeting house, southwest corner of Fifth and Arch Streets, in that city. He was a member of the Provincial Conference held at Carpenters' Hall, June 18, 1775; and of the Convention of July 15, 1776. Under the Constitution framed by the latter body, he was appointed Secretary of the State, which office he held most of the time until March 25, 1783. In 1776 he was in command of one of the Philadelphia Battalions of Associators, and in active service. He was a member of the Council of Safety from July 24, 1776, to March 13, 1777; and secretary of the same during the close of the latter year. At the end of the Revolution Colonel Matlack was presented with a silver urn,

delphia, that Col. Matlack had Either told him he would start from Philadelphia on Thursday next or that he intended to be at this place on that day but was uncertain which, & told him that the weather had been so unfavorable that he Expected the other commissioner would not attend agreeable to the appointment. This Intelligence with the circumstances attending it Embrasses me much. Here I am with three hands at Expenses, 12 miles from our Boat, without any Instrument proper for the Business I came on; among a number of People not overly Polite to strangers, near one Hundred miles from home; to return home, shameful; to stay disagreeable and altogether uncertain. Not a single line from my Coleagues either to apologize, or to assign a reason why they did not attend or to appoint another day.

SUNDAY, May 2d.—Breakfasted at Grenewalts and then walked back as far as the Sign of the Bear at Millers Town. Drank some cyder; felt Fatigued. Sent James Sweney and Matthew Gray on to the Boat and concluded to stay with Long's for the day, and kept McLaughlin with me as he complained much of the Rheumatic pains in his knees. Went to Bed, Slept 2 hours, Got up but felt no appetite for Dinner. Longed about until 5 o'clock; spoke for a Dish of Coffee; with the Coffee the landlady brought a Dish of Bacon and Eggs. The sight of this gave Edge to my appetite. After Coffee smoked a pipe; was much diverted with the observations made by James McLaughlin on various subjects, in particular on the Germany manners.

Paid at Lebanon for self and the 3 hands £1, 4s, 0d.

Paid at Millers Town for self and James McLaughlin, supper & Breakfast 5s, 0d.

MONDAY, May 3d.—Set out after Breakfast from Millers Town; by the "Committee of Safety of the City," for his patriotic devotion to the cause of freedom. He was one of the commissioners appointed to form the Flying Camp, and in 1785, was directed to carry on the prosecution against the traitor Arnold; was a member of the Old Congress of 1780–1, and on the 14th of April, 1800, appointed Master of the Rolls, an office he held until its abolishment by the act of Assembly, March 29, 1809. He subsequently received the appointment of prothonotary of one of the courts of the city of Philadelphia. Colonel Matlack died near Holmesburg, on the 15th of April, 1829, at the very advanced age of ninety-nine years; and his remains are interred in the Free Quaker burial ground, on Fifth Street, north of Spruce, Philadelphia.—*Sketches of members of the Constitutional Convention, in Pennsylvania Magazine of History, by Dr. Egle.*

walked about three milles. Stopped at a House near the Quitapahela Branch. Got a Drink of water. Rested about an hour then walked on and came to our Boat at 12 o'clock; found the Boys, Edw. Sweney and Mathew Gray. Got our Dinner, then Proposed walking to Mr. McKnights; was informed that he lived about two miles from our Boat; but the Evening began to be stormy and threatened rain which determined me to continue for the Night where I was.

TUESDAY, May 4th.—The morning Cloudy and cold but no Great appearance of Rain. Felt more at a loss what to do than I ever did. The hands all impatient and on the fret. McLaughlin said he was as bad as if confined in Jail. Had not a book of any kind, my almanack excepted, which I read more than onest over in order to drive the time. The people where we were discovered a disposition to oblige but were ill Provided to accomodate Strangers. About 10 o'clock it began to rain which made it still more disagreeable as I was then deprived of the Exercise of walking and felt Indisposed with a headache. Day continued cloudy but rained little; a kind of Disagreeable, raw, cold weather. About 3 o'clock my headache Got worse; our landlady Brought me a Vial with Camphoir with which I rubbed my Temples and found Immediate Relief; Drank a dish of Coffee after which I felt Pretty well.

WEDNESDAY, May 5th.—The morning cloudy and no word from the Commissioners; the afternoon cleared. Spent it Looking at Edw. making and setting traps for the musk rats of which there appeared to be plenty in the Creek.

THURSDAY, May 6th.—The weather Still continued cloudy, though there was but little rain. Spent the morning in Preparing our landlords corn for planting with Tar; after it was tared I found that the fowls would not eat it and found that a small Quantity of Tar is sufficient, 3 Quarts I think plenty for a Bushel. and by dusting it with ashes after the Tar is put on it, it may be handled without any inconvenience from the Tar. Had some hopes that the commissioners had arrived at Lebanon yesterday: kept a look out for an Express but to no Effect. Afternoon rain began and continued until night; went to bed Extremely Fatigued with waiting.

FRIDAY, May 7th.—Rose early; felt Extremely Fatigued; head much out of order, Sholders and Legs sore and altogether unwell. Got our Breakfast, then walked about three Quarters of a mile up the Creek. Borrowed a Razor, Shaved my self and returned; a kind of Dizzyness still continued in my head & the aching in my Bones; althow in opinion I felt some Better. Yet no word from the commissioners; the mens patience Quite Exausted for want of something to do. I have now a full proof that having nothing to do is the most disagreeable Situation in this life; the mind for want of something to keep its powers Exerted, turns on itself and Destroys everything that has even the appearance of Injoyment.

After dinner set off with James McLaughlin and walked as far as Millerstown, to try what Exercise would do; after I stopped at Millers Town found the pain in my Bones, particularly in my shoulders increased and found myself altogether unsound. Was obliged to go to bed. Slept almost all night but in the morning Still felt that soreness continue.

SATURDAY, May 8th.—No account yet from the Commissioners. Still Quite unwell. Shoulders, Back and Right Side as sore as if Bruised; walked to the Quitaphela at Regiles' dam in order to deceive the time that was Exceedingly heavy. Rode out of town in a chase with my landlord; felt something better after my Return; about 8 o'clock at night heard by a Capt. Crain that the commissioners were arrived at Lebanon.

Expences at Millers town for self and James McLaughlin, £0, 1s, 9d.

Cash Lent Col. Matlack at Christopher Long's, 2s, 4d.

Cash paid at Crab's in Harrisburg, 2s, 4d.

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(No entries for a week.)

MONDAY, May 17th.—This morning we set off early with our Boat. Passed Erwin's Boats at Herrold's Landing but were Immediately pursued by one of Erwin's Boats with Seven of their Boat hands on Board. The Chase continued for one hour at least; they did not exert themselves to such a degree as Toatally to Exhaust themselves but Regulated their Exertions Just as they were necessary to keep ahead of the other boat. We arrived opposite

Sunbury about 12 o'clock. Mr. Adlum\* Left the Boat and Crossed to Sunbury but informed Colonel Matlack and myself that he would see us next morning by Breakfast time in Northumberland. We arrived at the main point at one o'clock. Immediately waited on Colonel Wilson and Dined with him. He informed me that Council in consequence of the application of the Indians Settled on the heads of the Alegina (Allegheny) River and within the Boundareys of Pennsylvania had wrote a letter of Instructions to us of the opinion of Council on the subject of the Indians application; that he expected that the Letter of Instructions would be Brought to hand from Council by Mr. Black; that he thought it would Be improper for us to Proceed without knowing the opinion of Council on these subjects.

This opinion of Mr. Wilson's, I for my own part, intirely agree with. Colonel Matlack spent part of the after noon in cleaning and shooting his gun.

TUESDAY, May 18th.—Mr. Adlum met us in the morning; we agreed to the number of hands necessary for the Expedition; as to the people who were to go with us. Agreed also to purchase some Blankets and other necessarys for the hands. I then Inquired whether Colonel Matlack would wait for the Instructions of Council on the subject of the Indian affairs; he Replyd he would not wait a moment; that they, meaning Council as I apprehended,

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\*Very little is known about the history of John Adlum. He was born in the town of York, Pa. His father was one of the earliest settlers at that place, and served as sheriff as early as 1749, and later as coroner of the county. He was a man of some prominence. Was one of the trustees for the erection of St John's Episcopal Church, and died shortly after its dedication, on the 30th of November, 1773, in his 74th year. The son (John Adlum) learned surveying, and in 1789 he was directed by Surveyor General Lukens to survey the reserved tracts of land at Presqu' Isle (Erie), Le Boeuf, &c. The same year he was appointed by the Government, on the recommendation of William Maclay, Benjamin Rush, John Nicholson and Colonel Thomas Hartley, a commissioner for examining the navigation of the Susquehanna River, and subsequently with Benjamin Rittenhouse to examine the river Schuylkill. He was also on several occasions called on to serve as commissioner to make treaties with the Indians. On the 27th of June, 1791, he wrote to Governor Mifflin from New Town (now Elmira) that he was there with Colonel Timothy Pickering to meet the Oneida and Onondaga tribes. They were on their way to Painted Post, where the meeting was to be held. About 200 Indians were present to accompany them, but owing to the low water in the river they had given up holding the treaty at Painted Post, and

might send an Express after us with their despatches, if they thought Proper. As I much wanted to see my family I then Inquired when the Boat would leave Northumberland. Mr. Adlum said that he could not go that day, but that the Boat might Proceed as soon as Colonel Matlack Pleased, that he could follow. I then asked Colonel Matlack when he would start from Northumberland; he replied, he thought that afternoon; that they would go up the West Branch five or six miles. I then said that I believed there was nothing further that I could do at that time, that I wished much to see my family.\* Colonel Matlack Inquired whether I had got a horse to ride; I informed him that I had and that I wished to go. He agreed and I set off; and him and the Boat Remained at Northumberland for the night.

WEDNESDAY, May 19th.—It appears that Colonel Matlack (was) Detained Last Night in Town in order to Carry Josiah Haner's Goods up to "Darr's" Town† (Lewisburg) where him and one Thornburgh are Erecting a New Store; those goods were on Board and the hands ready to Start by 11 o'clock. As the hands informed me they proceeded with the Boat, came to Mr. T. Rees's where I had Desired that some things for the use of my family might be Landed, and had spoke to Mr. Rees to Receive them, but Colonel Matlack would not suffer them to be Landed, said I might send to Darrs town for them. Mr. Rees told him that he would send his Boy for Mr. Maclay & that he would come down

concluded to hold it at New Town. He also said in the same letter that he was informed that 682 Indians in a body were on their way to meet them. In August, of the same year, he wrote a long letter from Fort Franklin, where he met Cornplanter and other chiefs on public business. From this time we lost sight of him. He took up much land and at one time possessed many acres. He was a relative of the wife of General Abbot Greene, of Lewisburg. Upon the removal of the National Government to the Potomac he went to Washington City, and afterwards died there.

\*Mr. Maclay lived on a farm in Buffalo Valley a short distance West of Lewisburg.

†Originally called Derr's Town, after Ludwig Derr, who lived there as early as 1770. The first survey was made by William Maclay, brother of Samuel, in 1769. The tract was patented on the 11th of August, 1772, to Rev. Richard Peters, who conveyed it to Derr September 17, 1773. It contained 320 acres. Derr laid out the town. March 21, 1812, it was incorporated as a Borough and called Lewisburg.

Immediately, but he said he would not wait. At Darrs Town Capt. Lowdon Told Colonel Matlack that Mr. Rees had sent up his son for Mr. Maclay, that he would be Down in a Short time; that Mr. Maclay had waited a week for him in Lebanon. He Replyd that he had not, that the time Mr. Maclay waited in Lebanon he had waited on Council and not on him, and that he would not wait one hour on any man and set off with the Boat and hands.

In the mean time I came to Darr's Town Expecting to meet the Boat and Get my Baggage on Board; but it was Gone, and the only account left for me was that they would push as farr as Possible. No alternative was Left; I was obliged to take my Baggage on my Back and follow the Boat, which I did and to ad to the Disagreeable situation in which the Boat left me to shift for my self it Began to Rain, and night came on before I could hear any certain acc't where the Boat had stopped. However, I continued to follow until about 10 o'clock at night, althow the Road was verry Bad and the Night wet and Dark, and found them at James McLaughlin's nearly opposite the mouth of Warrior Run.\*

Colonel Matlack's observation to Capt. Lowdon was ill founded. Because the appointment was made with Col. Matlack, not with Council & Matlack had neither wrote or Even sent a Message to Inform Mr. Maclay that a Disapointment had prevented them attending; therefor, Mr. Maclay, if he waited at all, Certainly waited for those Persons with whom he had made the appointment. Another Consideration still Places this matter in a Stronger point of View, Viz., Colonel Matlack called on Council for a much Larger sum of Money than what was agreed on by the commissioners when the appointment was made to meet on the first of May at Lebanon.

THURSDAY, May, 20th.—Rained hard the greater part of the day, which obliged us to continue at McLaughlin's all that day.

FRIDAY, May 21st.—Set off early in the morning. Pushed up about 6 miles where we stopped and Breakfasted & Reached that night, about 2 o'clock, about 2 miles above Wallis's Island.

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\*The thrifty Borough of Watsontown now stands near the mouth of Warrior Run.

SATURDAY, 22d.—Set off; Passed up the Race Ground\* Early in the morning; Stopped; Leveled the Race Ground.

Fore Sight 394

Back “ 781

---

387 Difference in 102 perches Distance.

In this place there are 2 large flat Stones and a number of Losse ones, to be Removed which when done Boats can with Ease and Safety be Towed up this place. From thence to Loyal Sock Ripples a fine Easy current. Loyal Sock Ripples.

Back Sight 915

Fore “ 535

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380 Difference in 102 perches.

At Loyal Sock we waited some time for Mr. Adlum, and at length set off without him; he overtook (us) in the afternoon, and we took up our camp for the night opposite a small I'ld called Toner's Island.†

SUNDAY, May 23d.—Set off early and the men worked hard all day, and Reached the mouth of the Bald Eagle a little before sunset, where we incamped.

MONDAY, 24th.—Spent the day in Baking Bread, and providing horses for the expedition; Saw Several, but none that suited our purpose.

TUESDAY, May 25th.—The morning threatens Rain; we went and Breakfasted with Mrs. Don.‡ Looked at several horses but could not buy any that we thought Exactly suited our purpose;

\*The Race Ground Island, well known to raftsmen, lies in the river about a mile below the mouth of Loyalsock Creek. It was so named because the water runs swiftly around it on the side next Bald Eagle Mountain. It always was a dangerous place for raftsmen, and many rafts have been wrecked on the head of the island, as the water in rushing around to the right side, or channel, is treacherous and requires great care on the part of pilots to avoid being drawn on the bar.

†A small island in the river opposite the present town of Linden. The water has encroached upon it very much and it is almost entirely washed away.

‡She resided on the Great Island, which her husband, William Dunn—according to tradition—purchased from the Indians “for a barrel of whiskey, a rifle and a hatchet.” It contained about 300 acres and was a favorite place of resort for the aborigines. It lies in the river a short distance east of Lock Haven.



we at length purchased three, and left Gersham Hicks and Mathew Gray to get them Shod, and prepared to start with the Boat.

WEDNESDAY, May 26th.—Started with the Boat, and found it Good Boatable water up as far as Tangascutack,\* but between that and Baker's there were a number of Ripples and Sholes, which took up so much time that it was nearly night when the Boat arrived there where we encamped for the night.

THURSDAY, May 27th.—Started Early and arrived at Bennet's before sun set. In this day's push we found much difficulty occasioned by Ripples & Sholes.

FRIDAY, May 28th.—Set off and Passed through several Sholes and one sharp Ripple, and about 1 o'clock came to Shin Town† where we spent the Remainder of the Day in Baking & Cooking.

SATURDAY, May 29th.—Breakfasted and set off. I this morning felt much out of order; the Evening before after I drank tea, I was taken with a severe pain in my Left arm, Which I took for an attack of Rheumatism, but in a short time it Removed from my arm and fixed in my Breast, and continued Very Painful at night. We had not Traveled far before it began to Rain; we, however, kept moving Slowly along; we met with some sharp Ripples and some Sholes, but the sholes we had this day were not as bad as those between Shin Town & the young women's‡ town. We arrived at the mouth of the Sinnemahoning River§ about 1 o'clock, and proceeded up the River about one mile and a half, and encamped. It still Continued Raining.

SUNDAY, May 30th.—Proceeded up the Cinamahoning with the Boat, Got up the falls without much Difficulty. In them there are a few Stones that appear to be loose, that must be removed, that may be don for about £10. We got about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  (miles) further up to the

\* A small stream emptying into the river two miles west of Farrandsville. Coal was formerly mined on this stream.

† A hamlet a short distance above Renovo. At that time it could not have been more than a cabin.

‡ The village of North Point is now located at the mouth of Youngwoman's Creek.

§ Now called Keating. At this point the West Branch runs from the southwest, and the Sinnemahoning, which empties into it, runs from the west.

point of an island, where is a shole, when we were obliged to put out about half our loading, and then got up with the Boat and proceeded up the River about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile, unloaded the Boat, and sent her back for that part we had left at the Ripple. As soon as she returned we got our load on board and pushed up the River about half a mile, where we meet with another shole, which we could not pass. We then pushed our boat a little back and encamped for the night. About Dark it thundered, and in the night it rained a little; and though we had near three days of cloudy weather and some rain, the river continued to fall.

MONDAY, May 31st.—The morning cloudy with a misty rain. About 8 o'clock it cleared up, then all hopes of the river rising at the time were ended. We then, as the last resource, set James McLaughlin with 4 other hands to work to make us canoes. After this was agreed on Mr. Adlum and myself set off, and climbed to the top of a mountain that lay to the northeast of our camp and came close to the river. As we passed along its foot. (it) did not appear high, but when we attempted climbing it, we found it a verry high mountain, and the country to the north appeared to be pretty level, and the soil of a middlin quality. We traveled about 2 or 3 miles and then came down the monntain to the river about 2 miles below our camp. We on our way took up McLaughlin's Broad ax which had been forgot the day before, where we loaded our boat after getting up the ripples. We got to camp about 2 o'clock. After dinner colonel Matlack and Mr. Adlum walked up to see how the canoe making came on, and I assisted the boys at Baking Bread. This with a dish of tea concluded the month of May.

TUESDAY, June 1st, 1790.—The hands were employed in working at our canoes and baking Bread. Mr. Adlum and myself walked down the river near three miles, but met with no game. Returned, Got Dinner and then walked up to see the canoe making.

WEDNESDAY, June 2d.—Spent the fornoon in Lineing the River up as far as our camp. About 1 o'clock one of our canoes was launced, but I have not yet seen here since she was put in the water.

THURSDAY, June 3d.—Loaded our canoe and proceeded up the river, Surveying it as we went; we surveyed it up as far as the

second fork, where we arrived about 4 o'clock. We spent the remainder of the day in pitching our tent and unloading our canoe, and unpacking some of our stores which had got wet.

FRIDAY, June 4th.—In the morning sent off James Carney and Edward Sweney with the canoe to go back to where we had left James McLaughlin and the other hands to finish the other canoe. Carney and Sweney were ordered to return this day with another Load of our stores, but are not yet Returned.

Carney and Sweney Returned in the evening and brought with them a small load of stores.

SATURDAY, June 5th.—Sent of Saml Gibbons and Matthew Gray in the morning early for another load; they returned at 2 o'clock, unloaded the canoe and set off for the old camp in order to bring the remainder of our stores. On the way they met McLaughlin and Reynolds with the new canoe loaded, on their way.

SUNDAY, June 6th.—McLaughlin and Reynolds had come part of the way on Saturday and came to camp at 10 o'clock, and Brought with them a large she Beaver, that McLaughlin had caught at 2 small islands that are about a mile below the first forks. At one o'clock the other canoe with the Remainder of our Stores arrived; the Residue of the day was spent in preparing provisions, Packing tents, etc.

MONDAY, June 7th.—The canoes were Loaded and all hands set forward with them, Hicks and myself Excepted. I chused to stay with Hicks in consequence of my having been much indisposed for the two Preceeding days, as Hicks had to take care of the horses and make pack saddles; I amused myself in assisting him; I still felt Rather unwell; some remains of my head ach continued with a pain or rather soreness cross my kidneys.

Mr. Adlum with three hands intends to run a line cross the coming place to the Alegina,\* and get some of our people set to work at making our canoes on the Alegina. Before he returns to this camp, as soon as that can be accomplished, we intend to survey the West Branch as high as it will admit canoes, and then examine what kind of communication the country will admit of Between it and Toby's Creek. †

\*The Allegheny River west of the mountains of that name.

† Now called the Clarion River.

At night Hicks was taken with a cold fit which lasted about a quarter of an hour, and then complained of a hard lump in his stomach, and Likewise that his stomach was sick. He drank water and vomited and then the chillness together with the sickness went off. I caught as many chub in a short time, at the junction of the two branches, as made our supper.

TUESDAY, June 8th.—Hicks and myself Bussey in finishing our Pack Saddles. This morning we saw a deer in the River coming to a small Island; I immediately went after it; but could see no more of it this day. Likewise be it remembered that I made a Plumb Pudding in a Bag at the second forks of the Sinemahoning, and had it for dinner, and thought it as fine a one as I ever ate. A slight showr this evening, but not sufficient to raise the River; about 5 o'clock a canoe with two men and two boys, came to our camp; they said they had come from Pine Creek in four days. They discovered an inclination to stay all night at our fire, without either being invited or asking leave; their conversation was of hunting, and though in general fond of hearing hunting Feats, they in order to appear Singular made themselves Exceedingly disagreeable. I have not yet learned any of their names, and if they would push their Boats I would feel more happy than either their company or acquaintance could make me.

WEDNESDAY, June 9th.—My disagreeable guests were gone this morning before I got up. Got Breakfast; shot my gun at a mark; saw a large wolf Crossing the Left hand branch about 150 yards above our camp; hearing the guns fired he, I suppose, expected either to find the offall of some game or find some game wounded.

The time is now arrived at which I expect the return of our canoes, 3 o'clock; 4 o'clock, the canoes returned; the men complained that they were fatigued; (in) order that they might rest a little, I undertook to bake some bread. They in the mean time took the canoes out of the water, and made fires under their Bottoms to Dry them, that they might run lighter and carry a greater Burthen. Last night McLaughlin caught a second Beaver, and so the day concluded with cooking and the other usual avocations.

THURSDAY, June 10th.—The morning rained until about 9 o'clock; in the time of the rain Thomas Semor\* came up to our

\*Seymour, properly.

camp. As soon as the Rain began to abate I ordered the hands to begin to put our Baggage on Board and Got ready as quick as Possible and set off. As our canoes were unable to take all our baggage along, in the State the water was, I put our tent and several other things on Board of Semor's canoe, and went on Board with him & told him that he should be paid a reasonable compensation for his trouble. We were as Diligent as possible until night, and were only able to get eight miles that day; the water was so low that we were obliged to Drag our canoes through every ripple, and in Several of them were obliged to Quarrey a passage through for our canoes.

FRIDAY, June 11th.—Rose early, had the Breakfast Got Ready as soon as Possible, and started this morning. I felt myself unable to work in the canoe with Semor; I have felt the Rheumatism for several days in my right arm and sholder, and the workin the Preceding day had increased my pain. I continued on shore alone until about one o'clock, and then Expecting that the heavy canoes could not reach the uper camp that day, I got my Blanket put on Board of Semor's Light canoe, and desired him to push on for the uper camp, and I kept along shore with him for some time, when finding the water to get worse, and not being in condition to give him much assistance, I determined to walk on to the upper camp. I did so and Reach(ed) the place about 5 o'clock. Hicks, who had brought the horses, got there a few minutes before me; him, I sent back to assist Semor in Bringing up his Canoe. They returned with the Canoe Before sunset. I need scarcely ad that I was Sufficiently Fatigued to go to Bed early.

SATURDAY, June 12th.—Sent Hicks and Semor off early this morning with Semor's canoe to meet the other Canoes and to take a part of their loads, and to assist in Bringing them up. They met them about 2 miles Below the camp and took a part of their loads and returned with them. In about 3 houres it began to rain and now Rains pretty fast; Mr. Adlum not yet returned.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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THE Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, which begins at Sunbury and ends at Erie, is 288 miles long. The highest point reached in crossing the Allegheny Mountains is at Kane. The elevation above tide is 2,220 feet.

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY PRISONS.

BY R. H. AWL, M. D., SUNBURY.

IN the "Pennsylvania Archives" is a letter written by Conrad Weiser to James Logan, dated September 29, 1744, in which he makes mention of a "locke-house," that he with eight young men built for Shekalamy, the Oneida chief, the father of Logan the Mingo chief, who afterwards figured so prominently in the Indian history of our State. The "locke-house," or supposed prison, was finished in seventeen days, being  $17\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide and  $49\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and covered with shingles.

The second jail or place of keeping the lawless was the "Old Magazine" at "Fort Augusta," which still may be seen. This "Old Magazine" answered the purpose of a prison for a number of years. But in 1773 William Maclay, my grandfather, wrote a letter to J. Tilghman, at Philadelphia, then Secretary for the Colony, in which he complained of the smallness and insecurity of this place "for the confinement and punishment of villains."

The third jail was commenced on the corner of Market Street and Center Alley in 1775, and finished in 1776. It was built of stone and brick and used for both a prison and a Court House. The building is still standing and is known as the Pleasant property. Tradition places the old whipping post opposite this jail, in the middle of Market Square, east of the place where the old Market House stood.

The fourth jail was built on the southwest corner of Arch and Second Streets. From what information I can get it was commenced in 1801, and completed in 1803. Including the two lots, number 149 and number 150, the cost was about \$8,000.

The fifth, or present prison, was built on the site of the previous structure in 1876. The original contract for the structure was \$91,936, but some alterations from the original plan ran the cost up to about \$125,000. I quote what Mr. Biddle, General Agent and Secretary of the Board of Public Charities, says of this prison in his report of 1885: "We here find one of the best county jails in the State. It is in charge of a warden elected by the commissioners, and contains ninety-six cells in two corridors. Weaving is taught and looms provided, upon which the men make car-

pets, etc. A profit over the cost of more than twelve hundred dollars was yielded from the work last year, and the good condition of the prisoners more than proved its beneficial effects. Every place was clean and in good order. The contrast between this jail and many of those in adjoining and near counties was very great, and it is surprising that with such an example so near at hand, others are willing to be satisfied with such wretched and censurable accommodation." With such commendations coming from such a source, the people of the county should be proud and appreciate the faithful discharge of duty as performed by our commissioners. It is their management that gives our county either a high or low standing among the neighboring counties. Our present commissioners thus far need not seek for praise. Their work stands to show for itself. This is an office that is more difficult to fill than is commonly thought. The county commissioners have the power of levying taxes upon the citizens and the collection of the same. They are charged with the disbursement of all the revenues of the county as well as the control and management of the public property. They must oversee county improvements, keep a watchful guard of the treasury, and at all times turn an attentive ear to adjust petty grievances and troubles. In the commissioner should be found the good qualities of a man; unbounded patience, a good disposition, the control of temper, and above all good, sound judgment he is daily called upon to exhibit. And beyond doubt the remuneration for the possession and manifestation of these powers should be more. Good men with good pay is a rule that will prove itself to be as true to the county as it does to corporations and individuals. The present prison is declared by all who visit it to be a very good and secure one. And especially is this so when compared with the previous jail, which the following anecdote will illustrate:

Two men, one Jake, for assault and battery, the other, John, a chronic chicken thief, were confined in the old prison about thirty years ago. The old jail at that time was considered by expert thieves to be only a place to rest and stay over night, unless they were chained and hobbled to the floor. The night before Christmas, hearing the bells ringing and a great commotion outside, and not being hobbled or chained, John and Jake opened the back

door letting them into the yard, where they made an opening in the wall large enough to let them out. After they were out they first went to the lower end of town, where they got quite drunk; having been informed that a dance and jollification was to come off at "Het Coley's" (who lived in a small house on the corner where the First National Bank stands), they next went there. They were not in the house long till they were accused of putting croton oil in the darkey's jug of whiskey, which soon brought on a free fight, ending in John being thrown out head foremost, lighting with his face on a poplar stump, cutting and bruising it severely. With some trouble Jake got John back into jail again, where he placed him on a bed, and then went the third time through the opening in the wall and brought the doctor. The sheriff, on seeing Jake, was greatly surprised and asked, "How is this, Jake?" who answered that hearing fun outside, and wanting some themselves, John and he made an opening in the wall, which they intended to fix in the morning before the sheriff was up. John's face was dressed, a few stones and a little mortar placed to repair the opening in the wall, and the affair was soon forgotten.

The following are some of the important diseases treated during the past two years: Epilepsy, 2; paralysis, 4; neuralgia, 5; insomnia, 6; insane, 4; conjunctivitis, 6; ulcerated sore throat, 7; nasal catarrh, 4; hypertrophy of the heart, 2; valvular affection of the heart, 1; phthisis, 2; hæmoptysis, 1; pneumonia, 7; gastritis, 3; dyspepsia, 4; colica, 7; constipation, 10; dysentery, 1; diarrhoea, 2; hemorrhoids, 2; strangulated hernia of the bowels, 1; hepatitis, 3; cystitis, 1; orchitis, 2; stricture of the urethra, 1; gonorrhoea, 5; syphilis, 9; rheumatism, 11; lumbago, 2; bilious fever, 6; intermittent fever, 3; abscess, 5; erysipelas, 3; scabies, 7; two pistol shots causing a compound fracture of the fibula and tibia, 1; artery of palmar arch cut, 1; frozen foot with loss of toes, 1; punctured wound followed by erysipelas, 1; contused wound of scalp, 1; bruised face from falling down stairs, 1; incised wound of leg, 2; incised wound of thigh, 1; sprained ankle, 3; deaths, none. The average number of prisoners was about fifty-five; three-fourths of these were sentenced to close confinement. Considering the number confined, and that a great many are afflicted with some complaint before their confinement, the prison has been



kept in a good and healthy condition. The commissioners deserve great credit for the manner in which they have discharged this part of their manifold duties. To oversee the supply of food, clothing, etc., to manage the sale of manufactured articles, and to make the various appointments, is of itself not an easy task. The clean and good condition in which the warden keeps the prison and the successful way the carpet weaving is carried on is noticed by all the visitors.

I attended the old prison ten years and the new or present one two years as physician; which, including this year (1887), makes thirteen years in all.

### RECOLLECTIONS OF PETER PENCE.

One article in THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL puts the date of the death of Peter Pence, one of the great Indian fighters, at 1829. He died in 1812, at his residence on the north side of Nippenose Valley, near the west end in (then) Wayne Township. He left a will, which you will find recorded in Williamsport, appointing John Stine and my father, Robert Hamilton, Esq., executors. Stine refused to serve and administration papers were made out for my father. He left the one-third of the rents of his estate to his dear and loving wife; to his son, John Pence, the place he (John Pence) lived on, and an equal division of the rest of his estate, real and personal, to Susan Pierson, Elizabeth Pence, Mary Stine, Catherine Showers, Hannah Gyeen (Gheen), and Peter Pence, Jr., and adding:

"My choice is to have for my executors Robert Hamilton and John Stine."

(Signed)

HIS  
"PETER X PENCE."  
MARK.

Among the papers found with Pence's will was one, the assignment of a bond to Belen Bener, dated November, 1768,

(Signed)

HIS  
"MICAH B. X PERCEL."  
MARK.

Witnesses:

"ANDREST BLACKHART,  
GEORGE OUERDEN,  
DAVID EVARTS."

Another note for the full sum of £900 current money of Pennsylvania, dated 1778, given to Peter Pence by William Taylor. Witnessed by Daniel Montgomery. These are notes, as I suppose, that never were paid. There are some other papers with Pence's name connected.

In my father's docket is a suit, John Stine against Henry Pence, 1809. The docket shows a suit by Samuel Morrison against Peter Pence under date of 1800.

I have no remembrance of seeing Peter Pence. I have seen his son Peter, and a number of the first settlers of Nippenose, then often called "Hard Scrabble:" Stines, Gheens, Clarks, William Shaw, Abraham Andrews, the father of Moses Andrews, an humble but distinguished Methodist.

There was a Justice of the Peace in the upper end of Wayne, but my father's residence was nearer, being opposite Love's Gap, on the road to the river, and it seemed to be the seat of justice for the valley.

NOTE—"April 9, 1811, Thomas Gheen and Hannah Pence were legally joined in marriage by me.

ROBERT HAMILTON."

The marriages of his children prove that he was something more than a boy during the Revolution.

My father bought some things at Pence's vendue and took me with him, over the mountain, to bring them home. There were a parcel of small tools, such as a worker in wood would use—a great many gauges of different sizes, and among the rest a wheelbarrow, which my father was going to leave, but I fancied it and insisted on bringing it, saying I could wheel it. He told me I couldn't; but we brought it along.

JOHN HAMILTON.

PINE CREEK, PA., July 29, 1887.

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COLONEL JOHN G. FREEZE, of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, has in his possession a deed, dated April, 1793, made by the "Corporation for the relief of poor and distressed Presbyterian ministers, and the poor and distressed widows and children of Presbyterian ministers, their successors and assigns forever." The farm is yet in the ownership of the then Grantee, Robert Finney.

## THE OLD FIREPLACE.

BY J. N. MATTHEWS.

THE blessed old fireplace! how bright it appears,  
As back to my boyhood I gaze,  
O'er the desolate waste of the vanishing years,  
From the gloom of these lone latter days;  
Its lips are as ruddy, its heart is as warm  
To my fancy, to-night, as of yore,  
When we cuddled around it and smiled at the storm,  
As it showed its white teeth at the door.

I remember the apple that wooed the red flame  
Till the blood bubbled out of its cheek,  
And the passionate popcorn that smothered its shame  
Till its heart split apart with a shriek;  
I remember the Greeks and the Trojans who fought,  
In their shadowy shapes on the wall,  
And the yarn, in thick tangles, my fingers held taut,  
While my mother was winding the ball.

I remember the cat that lay cozy and curled  
By the jamb where the flames flickered high,  
And the sparkles—the fireflies of winter—that whirled  
Up the flue, as the wind whistled by;  
I remember the bald-headed, bandy-legged tongs,  
That frowned like a fiend in my face,  
In a fury of passion, repeating the wrongs,  
They had borne in the old fireplace.

I remember the steam from the kettle that breathed  
As soft as the flight of a soul,  
The long-handled skillet that spluttered and seethed  
With the batter that burdened its bowl;  
I remember the rusty, identical nail  
Where the criminal pot-hooks were hung;  
The dragon-faced andirons, the old cedar pail,  
The gourd and the peg where it swung.

But the fire has died out on the old cabin hearth,  
The wind clatters loud thro' the pane,  
And the dwellers—they've flown to the ends of the earth,  
And will gaze on it never again;  
A forget-me-not grows in the moldering wall,  
The last, as it were, of its race,  
And the shadows of night settle down like a pall  
On the stones of the old fireplace.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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Address all letters and communications relating to literary matters, subscription or advertising to

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WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

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WILLIAMSPORT, SEPTEMBER, 1887.

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## JOSEPH BARNETT.

Joseph Barnett was the patriarch of Jefferson County. He had done service on the West Branch under General Potter during the Revolution; and also under the State against the Wyoming boys. After the war he settled in Northumberland County (now Lycoming), at the mouth of Pine Creek; and very likely was one of the Fair Play men, because he lost his property by the operation of the common law, which superseded the jurisdiction of fair play. Again, in 1797, he penetrated the wilderness of the upper region of the West Branch by the Chinklacamoose (Clearfield) path, and passing the headlands between the Susquehanna and the Allegheny, arrived on the waters of Red Bank, then called Sandy Lick Creek. He had purchased lands there of Colonel Timothy Pickering & Company. He first erected a saw mill at Port Barnett, as he called it, at the mouth of Mill Creek, about two miles east of Brookville. Here his descendants still reside. His companions on this expedition were his brother, Andrew Barnett, and his brother-in-law, Samuel Scott. Nine Seneca Indians, of Cornplanter's tribe, assisted him to raise his mill. Leaving his brother to look after the new structure, he returned to his family in Lycoming County, intending to take them out to his settlement in the wilderness. But Scott soon followed him, bearing the melancholy news of the death of his brother Andrew, who was buried by the friendly Indians and Scott in the flat opposite where a tavern afterwards stood. This news discouraged him for

awhile; but in 1799 he removed his family out, accompanied again by Scott. They fell to work and sawed lumber and rafted it down to Pittsburg, where it brought in those days \$25 per thousand. The usual adventures and privations of frontier life attended their residence in that wild portion of the State. The nearest mill was on Black Lick Creek, now in Indiana County. Mr. Barnett knew nothing of the wilderness south of him, and was obliged to give an Indian \$4 to pilot him to Westmoreland. The nearest house on the path eastward was Paul Clover's (grandfather of General Clover), 33 miles distant on the West Branch, where Curwensville now stands; westward Fort Venango was distant 45 miles. These points were the only resting places for travelers through that unbroken wilderness. What a change has been wrought in ninety years!

The Senecas, of Cornplanter's tribe, who resided on their reservation on the upper waters of the Allegheny, were peaceable and friendly neighbors, and often extended their excursions into this region, where they encamped two or three in a squad, and hunted deer and bear. In the spring they took the hams and skins to Pittsburg, where they traded them for provisions and clothing. Their rafts were constructed of dry poles, upon which they piled up their meats and skins in the form of a haystack. They were always friendly, sober, and rather fond of making money. During the war of 1812 the settlers were apprehensive that an unfortunate turn of the war upon the lakes might bring an irruption of savages upon the frontier, through the Seneca nation, but it never came.

Sherman Day, when he visited the place of Barnett's settlement forty-five years ago, informs us that old Captain Hunt, a Muncy Indian, had his camp for some years on Red Bank, near what is now the southwestern corner of Brookville. He got his living by hunting, and enjoyed the results in drinking whiskey, of which he was inordinately fond. One year he killed 78 bears. The skins were worth about \$3 each, and he expended nearly all the proceeds for his favorite beverage.

Samuel Scott resided there until 1810, when, having scraped together, by hunting and lumbering, about \$2,000, he went to the Miami River and purchased a section of fine land, which made him rich.

Joseph Barnett, who remained in the new settlement, succeeded in carving out a home for himself and family. When the county of Jefferson—which had been erected in 1804—was ready to transact its own judicial business in 1824, he was appointed one of the first three commissioners, and the first meeting of the board was held at Port Barnett. Settlements were small and far between for many years. In 1840 the population of Brookville was 276; in 1880 it had reached 2,136. The name of Joseph Barnett has been honored by calling a township after him, and it is not likely that the memory of the sturdy pioneer from the West Branch, of nearly a hundred years ago, will soon be obliterated.

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### OLD TIME IRON FURNACES AGAIN.

The article on "Old Time Iron Furnaces," in the August number of *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL*, reminds me that I have quite a bundle of papers relating to the business of Robinson, McNickle & Beltzhoover, who owned a furnace near Harmony, Butler County. The members of the firm were William Robinson, Jr., of Allegheny; John McNickle and Daniel Beltzhoover, of Pittsburgh. The firm was embarrassed by a debt of \$1,160, due to Thomas Bradford, of Philadelphia, for which they executed a bond drawn up and witnessed by James Hall, June 16, 1819. On the 14th of June, 1826, Beltzhoover wrote to Richard Biddle, attorney for Bradford:

Our letter to you of 4 Nov. on the subject of Mr. Bradford's claim & the promise therein contained of payment of part thereof on the 26 May, was predicated on a contract which we have with Government for 5,000 cannon Balls. We had confidently calculated that the contract would before this time been filled, but owing to the Government agent not sending on the gnauges by which we were to be regulated in the size, it was impossible to push the making of them without the risk of having the Balls condemned. We have only 700 finished & received no part of the pay. We are proceeding now to finish as we are in possession of the gnauges & of course no time will be lost in closing the contract. It was all we calculated on to enable us to pay Mr. B. & in this we have been disappointed. It is our wish to discharge the Debt, but this can only be done thro' the operations of our works, & a coercion for payment would no doubt to us be extremely ruinous and perhaps jeopardize the debt of Mr. B. You know that we are doing every[thing] that is possible to discharge all our debts, & trust that our creditors will not press us in such a manner as to take the means out of our hands of so doing.

The following note, addressed to William Robinson, Jr., and post-marked Harmony, Pa., probably gives the date of the final closing of the furnace :

"MR. ROBINSON :

The furnace blew out on the 24th inst., and we have 3,000 balls ready for inspection. I have written to the Major asking him to send out and have them inspected. Mr. Robinson, come out yourself next week, I wish to see you very much. I have not rented the furnace yet. I shall expect you here next week.

Your Friend,

D. BELTZHOOVER."

"FEB. 27th, 1827."

The following letter is in the handwriting of William Robinson, Jr.:

"PITTSBURGH, March 1st, 1827.

"RICH'D BIDDLE, ESQ.,

Sir: We have been advised that a process in the case of Mr. Bradford has been issued and is about to be served on us which will inevitably lead to our ruin & the *loss of your client's debt* if persisted in. No alternative will be left us but a resort to the *insolvent laws*, & we conceive it our duty to Mr. B. as well as to ourselves to apprise you of the consequences. The means by which Mr. Beltzhooover intended to discharge this claim have never yet been realized it is calculated however to a certainty that the present month will complete the contract for the Balls, & as soon as a shipment can be made to Orleans of them Government will pay for them, this fund Mr. Beltzhooover has always held applicable to Mr. Bradford's debt. We trust therefore you will see it to the interest of your client to suspend these proceedings as we are confident if he were in possession of the circumstances he would not hazard the loss of his claim by pushing us to insolvency.

Resp'y Y<sup>r</sup>. Obt. Sts.

ROBINSON, McNICKLE & BELTZHOOVER."

The whole correspondence is interesting—showing the difficulties encountered by the early furnace-men—but too voluminous to publish in THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

ISAAC CRAIG.

ALLEGHANY, July 18, 1887.

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NORTHUMBERLAND County was erected March 27, 1772. At that time it took in territory enough for a state. To-day it contains 462 square miles, or 295,680 acres. It borders on the Susquehanna River for 22 miles above and for 21 miles below the town of Northumberland.

## MR. HAMILTON'S JOURNAL.

Mr. Francis T. Carpenter, of Jersey Shore, writes: I have been much interested in the journal of my old friend, John Hamilton, kept during his voyage by canal to Philadelphia in 1839, as published in *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL* for August. He speaks of the freezing up of the canal November 21st of that year. I well remember that occurrence. I had a short time previous to that date driven from this place to Marshalton, Pa. There I bought seven fine South-down sheep. These I had sent to Philadelphia by wagon, and shipped to Jersey Shore by canal, on a boat owned and run by Captain Robert Baker, now of Williamsport. Having sold my horse and buggy, I returned home by stage, and a very cold, tedious ride it was, and anxiously awaited the sheep. But, that very November 21st the boat was frozen in near Milton. This was before the existence of a telegraph, except perhaps in the busy brain of a Morse, and not till Captain Baker came home could he report the ice-bound sheep. With a team and wagon I drove across the mountain and brought them to Jersey Shore. These black-faced, round-bodied, short-tailed sheep awakened much interest and curiosity, as they were the first Southdowns brought to this part of the country. Their parents were imported from some of the finest English flocks. Their tender, delicate flesh helped to correct the prejudice against mutton.

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ATTENTION is called to the personal journal of Hon. Samuel Maclay, commenced in this number of *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL*. The commission to which he belonged was composed of three excellent men, and the work assigned them was important, because very little was known at that time about Western Pennsylvania. The journal, which is interesting in its details, will serve to show the reader of to-day the privations that the pioneers were called upon to endure. The commissioners not only surveyed and explored the West Branch, the Sinnemahoning and other streams, but they crossed the mountains to the Allegheny River and ascended the Conewango to its source, Chautauqua Lake. On their way up they fell in with Cornplanter and his tribe. Erie, LeBeuf, Fort Franklin and many other places were visited. They



surveyed the Kishkiminetas and explored the almost impenetrable wilds of the Conemaugh, closing their work in the autumn of 1790. The journal does not flag in interest from the beginning to the close. It never was printed in full before, which makes it more valuable at this time. At least two issues more of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL will be required to complete it.

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### NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

NEXT to Adam Hart, who has been in his 100th year since the 6th of May, Mrs. Catharine Barto is one of the oldest residents of Lycoming County. She was born in Buffalo Valley, near Lewisburg, in 1792, and is 95 years old. Her father's name was George Tellers. In 1817 she married Daniel Barto, and in 1820 they moved to a farm in Penn Township, Lycoming County. Her husband died in 1867. She lived in the same place where they settled up to 1881, when she went to reside with her son George, who died a few weeks ago. At the present time she lives but a short distance from her old home with her daughter, Mrs. Bartlow. Her living descendants number 114.

JOHN WARNER, of Pennsville, Lycoming County, celebrated the 90th anniversary of his birth on the 17th of July, 1887. He is one of the oldest residents of Muncy Township. He was born in 1797, one year after the erection of Lycoming County, and has always lived in the West Branch Valley. Reared a Quaker, he has been a consistent member of the Society of Friends throughout his long life. His living children are, Henry E. Warner, of Williamsport; Thomas A. Warner, Mrs. Mary Mendenhall, Mrs. Rachel Parker and Mrs. Whitacre, with whom he lives. The wife of the venerable and respected patriarch died many years ago.

MRS. ELIZABETH GILDAY, of Jersey Shore, is the widow of Thomas Gilday, and daughter of Thomas and Eve Updegraff. She was born April 10, 1803, at the homestead on Long Reach, where she was raised. She is the mother of a large family, and after a life of toil and care, of privation and affliction, she is passing the sunset hours in quiet contentment, blessed by the tender love and self-denying care of a devoted daughter. Mrs. Gilday's sight is so well preserved that she can read comfortably, and much of her time

is thus occupied. Through her long life the Bible has been her comfort, and a Testament, in large print, supplied by a kind friend, has been read through many times.

MRS. MARY J. MCCLINTICK, of Lamar Township, Clinton County, was 83 years old April 12, 1887, and is remarkably agile for one of her years. She is always lively, in good spirits, and enjoys telling of the days when the loom and the spinning wheel were part of the furniture of every house, and home-made linen and flannels were good enough for anybody to wear. The *Lock Haven Express* says: "Mrs. McClintick is the mother of eight children, five of whom are living, viz: John W. lives on Cedar Run; Samuel in Lamar Township; Andrew and Close in Centre County, and Mrs. William Furst in Lamar Township. One son, Perry, died shortly after the war from disease contracted while in service. Forty-eight young men and women address her by the revered name of grandmother, while twenty-six of the rising generation call her great-grandmother."

MRS. MARTHA WILLIAMS, aged 90, attended the funeral of her sister, Mrs. Laura Downing, in Plymouth Township, Luzerne County, July 20, 1887. Mrs. Downing was 86. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Downing were daughters of Samuel Carey, who was captured by the Indians at Wyoming, and was held captive by them for six years. He lived to be 93 years old, and was over 80 when his daughter Laura was born.

JAMES PRESTON, at the age of 92, works in the Turkey Run coal mine at Shenandoah, and no man in the mine can do a bigger day's work. He is the father of 36 children, 33 of whom are boys. He came from Ireland and settled in Schuylkill County before anthracite coal was discovered.

COLONEL HENRY ROYER, of Miles Township, Centre County, Pa., was 91 years old on the 16th of April, 1887. He is the picture of health and is in the enjoyment of all his faculties; liberal-minded and intelligent, he has always been to the front when anything was to be done to promote the educational, material, or religious interests of Brush Valley. As a repository of local history of Miles and Haines Townships, he has been invaluable to those of us who have endeavored to preserve all that was valuable in that direction.

Colonel Royer's grandfather, Christopher Royer, came from the Palatinate and settled in Lancaster County. The old great-grandmother came over at the same time. She felt sadly in coming to a new country where there would be no church or ministers. The captain of the vessel, a good man, consoled her by saying "one could worship in the heart under a tree." The first sermon she heard in the new country was under an oak tree on the present site of Lancaster City.

Christopher Royer and his wife were both buried at Rap's church, Lebanon Comty. Their son, John George Royer, born in Bethel Township, Berks County, December 12, 1750, came to Brush Valley in 1811, and died there July 30, 1822. Four of his children grew up: Catherine, who married John Kern; Elizabeth, married Josiah Gift; Christena died single, and Colonel Henry, born within four miles of Millerstown, Berks County (Bethel Township), April 6, 1796.

When they came to Brush Valley, in 1811, there was but one house in Rebersburg (beside the church), the house in which Judge Samuel Fraaks now lives. The hotel, which was older, was burned down. Colonel Royer owns the old homestead and farm of his father. It lies west, north, and adjoining Rebersburg, being the home and place where Conrad Reber lived, who also laid out the western part of Rebersburg in 1809, and after whom the town was named.

In these seventy-six years Colonel Royer has been an eye witness of all the important changes that have occurred in the valley. When he came little land was cleared; the trees between his home and the site of Rebersburg had been "circled," and were dead. He remembers all the old settlers. But to relate his recollections would be only to go over what Professor Henry Meyer has so ably set forth in his contribution to the history of Centre County. The Colonel thinks himself well, physically, as he can walk up from town, half a mile, to his farm and back almost daily, and he drives to Millheim and Coburn, or out the valley, six or seven miles, to visit his daughter, Widow Kryder. His memory is good; he gives exact dates and relates in detail all the incidents of his life with no apparent effort. He spends his time principally in reading; reads and writes both in English and German, and is without ques-

tion one of the most remarkable men for absolutely unimpaired faculties that I have ever heard of. He expects to bury all us historians.

Colonel Royer was married in the holidays of 1821 to Miss Mary Gross, of New Berlin. She was born September 20, 1800, and died June 25, 1883. They had five children: George, who died in 1881; Elizabeth, married Thomas Wolf; Phoebe, married Daniel Brungart, of Rebersburg; Elvina, married Aaron Creep, of Sugar Valley, and Isabella, widow of J. P. Kryder.

Colonel Royer's signature, made yesterday in German and English, I enclose to show there is no tremor in his hand.

JOHN B. LINN.

BELLEFONTE, PA., July 30, 1887. Mer. 96°.

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### RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

FREDERICK DERR, who died at his home in Madison Township, Columbia County, June 23, 1887, was born October 12, 1804, on the farm where he expired. The farm was bought by his father, George Derr, of the first occupants, the Sutfin brothers, the deed being executed in 1817. George Derr was born in 1777, and had three children, Frederick, Margaret and Jane. He spent his life on this farm and died at the age of 81 years. His son, just deceased, was in his 83d year.

GEORGE DOREY died at his home in Philipsburg on the 20th of July, 1887, aged 97 years, 1 month and 11 days. Deceased was born in Nittany Valley June 10, 1790, and went to Philipsburg in 1851. He was a soldier of the war of 1812. He leaves two sons and five daughters: Mrs. Mathias Plank, Philipsburg; Mrs. George Ebbs, Houtzdale; Mrs. Elizabeth Laird, Rush Township; Mrs. Catherine Baer, and Mrs. Mary Farley, White Deer Valley, Lycoming County; George Dorey, Coalport, and Wesley Dorey, Clearfield.

JOHN KINCAID, who died at his farm house in Chillisquaque Township, Northumberland County, on the 30th of July, 1887, was born September 27, 1819. He received a good education and afterwards studied law with James F. Linn, Esq., of Lewisburg, but never followed his profession. He engaged in farming, and

when his parents died he fell heir to their valuable farm in Chillisquaue Township. Mr. Kincaid owned a fine library and was a great reader. He died a bachelor.

HON. GEORGE A. FRICK, who died at Lewisburg on the 2d of August, 1887, was born May 16, 1821, in Northumberland County. In his early days he attended school at an academy in Lewisburg, and afterwards studied law and became a prominent member of the bar. He served a term in the Legislature from Northumberland County, and took an active part in politics. Many years ago he had a severe fall, which caused him to lose his hearing, and he was a constant sufferer ever afterwards. About thirty years ago he gave up his profession and removed from Northumberland to Lewisburg, where he engaged in other business. Mr. Frick came from one of the oldest and most distinguished families in the early history of Northumberland County.

MRS. MARY POLLOCK died at her residence in Williamsport August 9, 1887, aged 91 years, 10 months and 24 days. Deceased was born in Milton September 15, 1795, and was a sister of the late Judge James Armstrong, of Williamsport, and Dr. William Armstrong, now of Philadelphia. In early life she married Fleming W. Pollock, brother of ex-Governor James Pollock and the late Dr. Samuel Pollock. Mrs. Pollock was a remarkable lady in many respects, and was widely known and universally respected. She was the mother of seven daughters.

CAPTAIN CHARLES MORTIMER MANVILLE, who died at his home in Towanda, July 16, 1887, was born at Moundsville, West Virginia, in June, 1807. The *Review* says that his father, Adrian Manville, one of the pioneers of Orwell, was a native of Connecticut; and his mother, a sister of Mrs. Dr. Barstow, of Wysox, was the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier, Captain Samuel Woodruff, who also came from New England. He spent his declining years at Wysox with Mrs. Barstow, where he died and was buried. The father's restless spirit of emigration drove him from Pennsylvania to New York, and thence to Western Virginia. At Moundsville, on the banks of the Ohio, the early life of Captain Manville was passed. Here he obtained such education as he could get through his mother's assistance and his own diligence. Upon the death of his father, the family returned to Pennsylvania and

settled in North Towanda. In his younger days he had nearly prepared himself for the legal profession, but the vortex of unprofessional life drew him away from that most exacting mistress, the law. The ready wit, for which he was distinguished, his keen analysis of character and his inimitable talent at mimicry, would have rendered him a formidable antagonist and an invaluable partisan in this arena of forensic disputations. During the war he was appointed provost marshal, in which capacity he showed himself worthy of his Revolutionary ancestry.

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ANDREW STRAUB, a German millwright, was the first settler on the site of Milton in 1792. He put up a small log mill, one and a half stories high. It had but one run of stones, but it was a great convenience for the surrounding settlers. He afterwards built a small saw mill, which caused his settlement to be called "Mill Town." This was afterwards shortened to Milton. In those days the man who built a mill was regarded as one of the most important in the settlement, and he always had visitors. Straub came from Lancaster County. His family followed him in 1793. He died August 2, 1806, aged 59 years. From his settlement grew the beautiful and flourishing Milton of to-day.

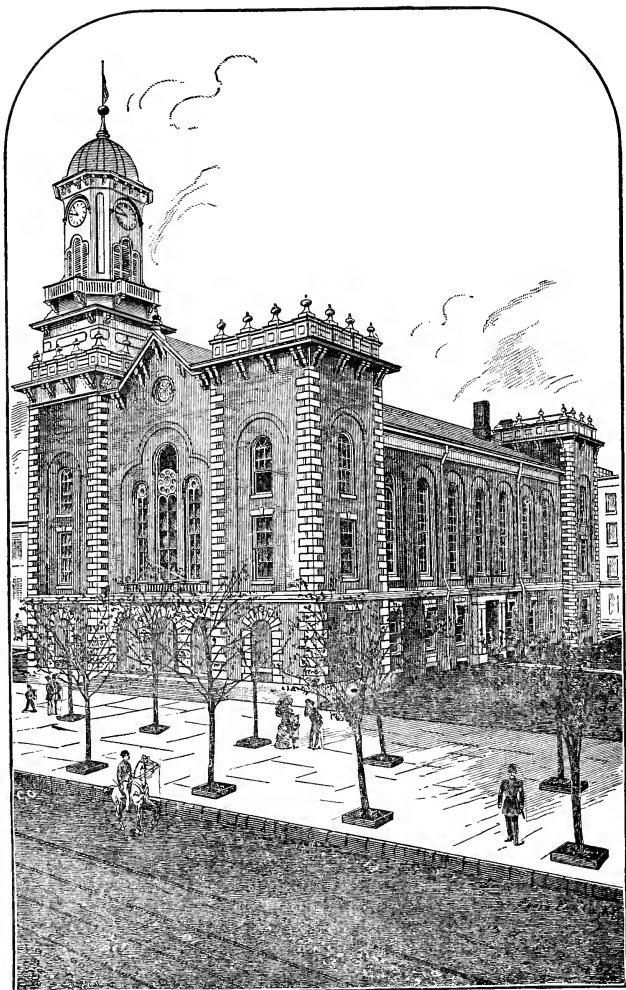
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ACCORDING to Mr. Gerner's *Now and Then*, published at Muncy in 1872, the first grist mill within what is now the territory of Lycoming County was erected by John Alward in 1772. It stood on the site of the brick mill now owned by the heirs of Jacob Cook, about one mile from the Borough of Muncy. Henry Shoemaker purchased the mill before the Indian war of 1779. He removed the gearings for safety, and when the savages came they only had the satisfaction of burning the log building. This was 115 years ago. About the same time Ludwig Derr erected his mill at Lewisburg.

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THE Catawissa Railroad, between Danville and Milton, was completed in 1857, and on Sunday, September 24th, the first engine passed over the track between the two towns. In 1871 the road was extended to Williamsport.





Present Court House of Lycoming County.



# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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"Out of monuments, names, wordes, proverbs, traditions, private records, and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of bookes, and the like, we doe save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time."—BACON.

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OCTOBER, 1887.

No. 6.

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## JOURNAL OF SAMUEL MACLAY,

1790.

ANNOTATED BY JOHN F. MEGINNESS.

SUNDAY, June 13th.—After Breakfast Began to Bake Bread in Expectation that Mr. Adlum and his party would return Early in the day from their Excursion to the Alegina; waited in that Expectation until 12 o'clock, then as the Branch had rose in consequence of the Rain, it was determined that I should take the advantage of the rising of the water and Proceed to Explore and survey the other Branch of Sinemahoning and run a line from the canoe place on the west Branch to connect with Little Toby's Creek, and not wait longer for Mr. Adlum's return. The hand(s) allotted for this Expedition were Thomas Semor, Gersham Hicks and Matthew Gray. I then got ten day's Provisions for four hands put on Board the Canoes, and went my self on board, with Semor, Hicks and Gray on Board of our long canoe which was to be left at the forks. We proceeded down the creek when upon enquiry I found the hands had forgot to bring salt with them; I then ordered Mathew Gray to Run Back to camp for some salt, and Hicks to wait for him and told Hicks that we would let our canoe float until they would overtake us. We floated on until we came five miles, then we waited until the knats and musketoes grew too Troublesom; I then told Semor that we would Get on board and proceed down the creek to the camp where we had lodged as we went up, and kindle a fire and then wait for Hicks & Gray.

We set off, came to our old camp, Kindled fire, provided fire-

wood and prepared for the night, but still no word from Hicks & Gray. A thousand conjectures presented themselves. At length Hicks\* came before it grew quite dark; he had waited for Gray's return until he thought he had time to have come back, and as he did not come within the time that he allowed him he came without him. This accident Triffling as it may seem, was really imberasing. I knew not what to do, nor could I do anything. It was night in a country where there were no roads. I had however some hope that Gray when he came back to where he had left Hicks and the canoe, and saw that they were Gone, would Hurey along in order to overtake the canoe, and that if he was unable to reach my fire that night, he would be with us early in the morning. In that Expectation I went to Sleep.

MONDAY, June 14th.—Early, I ordered Hicks to put some chocolate on to boyl in order to have Breakfast ready should Gray have come in, according to my expectation; waited for some time, then took breakfast; still no account of Gray, the creek falling, the favorable opportunity for which I had waited steeling away, and I by this accident toatally prevented from prosecuting my intended journey. I then sent off Semor and Hicks in the light canoe in order to see what was become of Gray; as I write I hear the canoe poles Returning. They are returned and have brought in Gray, so now we are preparing to proceed to the forks. We arrived there about 12 o'clock; Immediately got ready and began to survey the west branch† of the Sinemahoning and got a little way above

\* Hicks was an early settler on Bennett's Branch, near the mouth of Hicks' Run, which was named after him. He was half Indian.

† Better known to-day as Bennett's Branch, which falls into the Sinnemahoning at Driftwood. There the two streams uniting form what is properly known as the Sinnemahoning River, which unites with the West Branch of the Susquehanna at Keating, twelve miles below. Bennett's Branch was formerly called the "Second Fork." The Driftwood branch is called the main stream, because it has several large tributaries, viz.: The Portage, West Creek, North Creek, &c. It was on these streams where the Commissioners spent so much time surveying. Bennett's Branch was named after John Bennett, who went there from what is now Lycoming County about 1785. Erasmus Morey, of Benzett, now in his 92d year, says that Bennett's main cabin was near the mouth of Trout Run, at Benzett. When he (Morey) located there in 1814 the corn hills, cultivated by Bennett, were still visible. He was quite a farmer for that time and yoked his cows to do the plowing. He also had another cabin near the mouth of the branch, a short distance above the present borough of Driftwood.

Boyd's whetstone Quarrey \* before night having surveyed the creek 6 miles and 23 perches. Encamped for the night.

TUESDAY, June 15th.—Began my survey early in the morning and continued with all Possible Diligence until about 5 o'clock, when we arrived at old Mr Bennet's cabin, three quarters of a mile above the forks; we then took up our camp for the night.

WEDNESDAY, June 16th.—Spent the morning until Breakfast in Transcribing the notes of the two preceeding days, and as soon as I had finished them began my survey of the Branch. We this day had great difficulty in getting our canoe taken up as the water was verrey low above the first fork of the Branch. I was often obliged to wait for Semor and the canoe, and send the chain carriers to assist him, which lost me so much time that I was only able to get about 6 miles up the Branch when we incamped. The difficulty of the Business are fast increasing & our Provisions fast decreasing, and I find myself much fatigued.

THURSDAY, June 17th.—The morning cloudy and some rain, though not enough to raise the water for us. We must however proceed as there is no saving provision in the woods, and though there is some appearance of game in the country, yet we have got nothing. We set (off) and continued our survey by corse and distance up to the second forks; further than that we could not take our canoe. We were then obliged with our canoe to leave the most part of our Baggage; I left two of my Blankets, shoes and stockings. Took one blanket on my back which with the instrument made my load. The men who had to carry their own baggage and the provision could not measure, encumbered as they were. I was therefore obliged to quit it, and carried the instrument in my hand; took the courses of the creek and estimated the distance. In this manner I proceeded up the creek about a

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\*Hon. John Brooks, of Sinnemahoning, who has resided there for nearly 70 years, says that the Whetstone quarry was at the Moccasin Falls, about two miles above the mouth of the Sinnemahoning, and ten miles below Driftwood. Whetstones are found there in the cliffs on the north side of the Sinnemahoning. The quarry is no longer worked. Erasmus Morey says that at an early day there was a place on Bennett's Branch called "Whetstone Narrows," below Hicks' Run, where whetstones and grindstones were made. He says that Boyd built the first saw mill on Bennett's Branch in the summer of 1816.

mile and a half making in the whole 4 miles since we left our canoe, when Semor who had got a little distance ahead Shot at a Doe Elk. We came up to where he had left his load and made a halt; in the mean time we heard the Doe calling her fawn. Hicks then went over the creek to look for the Doe & after he was gone some time Semor shot a second time; Hicks in that instant started the fawn; it Run back to the creek and came within shot; I shot and killed it on the spot. Semor came back and said he had wounded the Doe, and him and Hicks went after it with the Dog; the dog in a short time drove another fawn into the creek just by where I stod. My gun was emty; Indeed I wished the fawn to Escape, But the dog caught it and him and Matthew Gray had a frolick with it Indeed. Semor and Hicks returned but found not the Doe. I then ordered a fire and the Kettle to be put on and Determined to stay and feast for the night.

FRIDAY, June 18th.—The mountains smoky and the appearance of rain. We however set off after an Early Breakfast, and traveled on until about one o'clock when we were stoped by a shower; after it left off Raining Proceeded on, until near sundown when we stopt and began to make a camp, as there was the appearance of a Gust. We had not got our camp finished when the rain began; there was just a moderate shower, though from the appearance as the shower came up I had expected a very heavy shower.

SATURDAY, June 19th.—As the Bushes were wet with Rain we staid at our camp untill after we had got Breakfast and then set off and walked the Branch about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles where the Branch forks. We took up the north fork, and travelled up nearly south about half a mile and came to the Big Elk lick,\* there were two Doe elks in the lick at one of which my gun missed fire at the distance of 50 yards. We then took up a point of the mountain along what we supposed to be an Elk path but soon found new and old Indian

\*The lick mentioned here evidently was not the "great lick" on the Portage Creek. There was a large lick and several smaller ones in the Trout Run region. There was a lick near the mouth of Trout Run, and in after years Stephen Winslow manufactured salt there. Salt was also manufactured at Driftwood from 1810 to 1819. A well 65 feet deep was sunk and the salt water pumped up. John Jordan was one of the early settlers there in 1806. The party operating the salt works was known as the Lycoming Salt Company. Judge Burnside was one of the owners, and a man named Webb was president.

marks along it. As soon as I reached the top of the hill, I took out the instrument and took the course to the upper forks of the Creek of which I had a tolerable Distinct view, and found that we were nearly N. W. from the forks and about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  or five miles Distant.

Hicks and Semor then set the compass to strike Toby's creek and agreed in the course; the course the set was N. 14 W., But as the Indian path was newly marked, and, as we supposed by the Indians whose marks we had seen at several places along Sinemahoning, and as we expected that they had come from Toby's Creek it was thought advisable to follow the path. It took nearly a north-east Course; we followed it about three miles. I then concluded that it went to the heads of the other Branch of Sinemahoning; we then took the woods and set off at N. 14 W., but soon found that it was impossible to keep a course between brush of every Description, fallen timber and Rocks. We were obliged to pick our way more anxious for our own safety than keeping our course. We traveled on keeping our course as well as we could for about 4 miles, when we crossed a small branch or rather run that falls into Toby's creek; we had not gone far this course which was nearly west before we crossed Shearer's north line. We (had) verrey bad walking but kept at it with Diligence until about 5 o'clock, when we reached Toby's at the little Elk lick about three miles below where Shearers north line stricks Toby's creek. I found the course of Toby's where I was along it to be about S. W. which course it keeps for about 3 miles further and then turns nearly north, which course it keeps untill it falls into Big\* Toby's creek, and appears to be adapted for inland navigation.

SUNDAY, June 20th.—Left our Camp on Little Toby's creek after we had Breakfasted, and set off in a south east direction, which direction we followed as near as circumstances would permit but were by Brush and fallen Timber obliged to turn Considerable more to the East, and came to the Indian path about a mile N. E. of the Big Elk Lick on the Sinemahoning. The Ground Between the Sinemahoning and Little Toby's Creek is a Barren mountain; in some places covered with a poor stunted Growth of Pitch pine, but the far greater part of the mountain has some years ago been

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\*Near the present borough of Ridgway, the capital of Elk County.

covered with small chestnut timber, which has been killed with fire and is now fallen, and the underwood is grown up among (it) so thick that in many places it fairly hid the logs, which makes walking both Dangerous and Difficult.

The distance between the Elk lick or the head of the upermost North East Branch of Sinemahoning, and Little Toby's Creek Does not Exceed Seven miles in a N. W. Direction, and the Country will admit of a Good road; the only difficulty, or at least the great one, will be making the Road up the South Side of the mountain; and in case a road should Ever be attempted in that part the Best and Easiest place is the end of the Ridge or spur, below the lick. When I returned to the waters of Sinemahoning, though I had not travelled a great Distance, yet I felt fatigued, and Encamped.

MONDAY, June 21st.—We were obliged to spend part of this morning in Baking some bread. While this was doing I walked about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to a Elk lick; I much wished to kill one as our fresh meat was done, but I saw none. I returned, and as soon as the Baking was compleated, we started. We then had only one day's allowance of Bread, no more flour; and were 50 miles at least, the way we had to go, from our General camp. These circumstances induced me to make as much haste as possible. I walked all Day, though in much pain with my Rheumatick complaints, and got to within three miles of where we had left our canoe as we went up; there I incamped for the night, much Fatigued.

TUESDAY, June 22d.—Our supper the Preceeding Day had finished our Bread; we had two Squares of Chocolate left, and a remnant of sugar, Some Bacon; but neither Bread nor flour. We set off & came to our canoe; found her & everything we had left safe. Semor, one of the hands I had with me, had a little Indian meal which he had left along with our tent and other things. Upon this meal we got to work, made some Dumplings and Boiled them in our Chocolate, and made with the addition of a slice of Bacon, a very hearty Breakfast. Put our things on board; Hicks and I started to go before to an Elk lick,\* in hops of Getting some meat,

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\* At the mouth of Trout Run, where the town of Benezett is now located.

and left Tho's Semor and Matthew Gray to Bring the Canoe with the Baggage. Hicks and I were again unsuckcessful, we saw none. My feet were by this time so sore that walking was verrey painful. I was obliged to go on Board the Canoe, though the water was so low that the men were obliged to Drag the Canoe one third of the way. We arrived at Bennet's Cabbin about the middle of the afternoon. There was then great appearance of rain, and in our situation, the raising of the water only a few inches would have been of vast consequence and as we had still a little of the Indian meal, I concluded to stay there that night, & Bake the meal and Boil a part of the Gammon which we had, concluding that if a rain should come as there was great appearance of it, we would gain time rather than Loos, as, by having our provision all cooked we would have nothing to delay us the next day.

WEDNESDAY, June 23d.—Set off from Bennet's Cabbin Early in the morning, and got down to the forks about the middle of the afternoon. At the point I left six small whetstones and a large piece of the same kind of stone for James McLaughlin to carry with for me to Buffaloe. As the water in the North Branch was verrey low, we Left our Tent in order to lighten our canoe, and without any delay we proceeded up the North Branch putting Hicks and Gray aboard of the canoe, and Semor and I walked. We got about four miles up the Branch and encamped a little before sun set.

THURSDAY, June 24th.—Started in the morning and reached our uper camp about 3 o'clock. About half an hour after I got there, Mr. Adlum arrived from our camp on the Ohia,\* a Branch or rather the head of the Alegina river, and brought us an account that James McLaughlin had finished two canoes there for us and was on his way returning; but had the misfortune to cut his foot with the adze.

FRIDAY, June 25th.—It rained in the night and in the morning it continued to rain. James McLaughlin and Reynolds came to Camp about 10 o'clock, and Began immediately to prepair to return home. By them I wrote a line to Mrs Maclay and James McLaughlin promised to send the Letter by a safe hand to Mrs

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\* Either on Portage or Potato Creek, near where the town of Port Allegany now stands.

Maclay; he likewise promised to take with him a large piece of whetstone from the forks which I left there and one small Elk horn and a piece of a large one. We took some pains to put Jimmey in good humor before he left us, but he seemed to part with us rather in Dudgen. I likewise left 6 small whetstones, which I brought from Boyd's Quarry.

SATURDAY, June 26th.—Mr. Adlum with two hands set out after Breakfast to survey the Road between our Camp on the North Branch of Sinemahoning and the new camp on the Alegina.\* After he started Colonel Matlack and myself took a walk up the Branch, as far as a mile above the second forks that were above our camp. At the first fork † the Left hand Branch comes from the south, and the other from the N. W., and the water nearly equal in both. At the second forks the Left hand branch comes partly from the west, and the other from the N. W. or rather more to the north; the Left hand Branch here has near Twist as much water as the Right. Up the right are two Elk licks. A heavy rain wet us to the skin before we returned.

SUNDAY, June 27th.—Spent a verrey disagreeable night; had a most voilent Tooth ach which continued all Day to be verrey Troublesome.

MONDAY, June 28th.—Had another distressing night. Face much swelled in the morning, and yet the pain in my tooth continues.

TUESDAY, June 29th.—Suffered much last night with a head ach. My face continues swelled; I'm altogether unwell. We expect our pack horses to return this day by 12 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, June 30th.—Felt something Better. Got all our Baggage Packed up and Loaded & at 10 o'clock set off; and that, and Got onwards about 9 mile. Passed the Large salt lick ‡ and encamped for the night.

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\*At or near the Portage, as it was called, because the Indians carried their light canoes overland to the waters of the Allegheny.

†The village of Sinnemahoning is located here. When Col. Matlack and Mr. Maclay were here on the 26th of June, 1790, there were no white settlers in this section. It was a very wild place—in fact a “howling wilderness.”

‡The “Great Elk Lick,” as it was called by the old hunters, was located here. It was probably the largest in the world, and was on what is now known as the



THURSDAY, July 1st.—Started early, and reached our camp on the Ohia about 3 o'clock; found none of our people at camp but Hicks. Mr. Adlum had set off in the morning to survey the River Down to the State line.\* The remaining part of the day I spent in assisting in Launching our canoes, and in writing to my son Billey.

FRIDAY, July 2d.—Loaded our canoes and proceeded down the Ohia; met with considerable difficulty in getting along over the shoales, the River Being too Low. About 12 o'clock met two Indians, one of which called himself Doctor Thomas. These Indians, as they informed us, had been sent up from the Town by the Cheiff, to see if we were coming down, and when we would be there. We traveled together until night, and Encamped together.

SATURDAY, July 3d.—Set off in the morning and had Tolerable water. Reached the State Line at 3 o'clock, where we found Mr. Adlum and his party. The Indians still continued with us; as we had Bread to Bake we concluded to stay there all night, and set off Early in the morning, and go to the town, the Doctor chusing to stay with us for the night, and his companion with him although

line of the Buffalo, New York and Philadelphia Railroad, near the station called Shippen. It was about ten miles north of Emporium. A short distance south is Sizerville, now attracting much attention on account of the medicinal properties of the water obtained there through a flowing well. The stream running south here is the Portage branch (of the Driftwood branch) of the Sinnemahoning, which empties into the Driftwood at Emporium. This salt or elk lick is mentioned in John Hanna's notes of the survey of the lands of the Holland Land Company, made by him in 1793. In his notes he speaks of beginning a block of surveys about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of the "Big Elk Lick," on the line of survey made by John Adlum. The lick was very large. The ground around it for at least three acres was literally cleared of brush by the stamping herds of elk and deer. Old hunters used to relate that they had seen as high as thirty elk in the lick at one time, and hundreds were killed there. What was afterwards known as the "Salt Works," or "Parker Salt Well," occupied its site. This section of the State, embracing Potter, McKean and Elk counties, and what is now Cameron County, was the last retreat of the elk. As late as 1841 a herd of thirteen still existed in these forests, but they were slain one by one until the species became extinct.

\*The Allegheny River, which has its source in Potter County, flows northward into the State of New York. It then makes a great bend to the left like a horse-shoe, and enters the State of Pennsylvania again, when it runs southwestwardly to the Ohio. When the Commissioners were there they regarded it as the Ohio proper.

we had desired him to go to the Town, and inform their Cheiff, that we intended to be at the town in the morning.

SUNDAY, July 4th.\*—Set off Early in the morning and made the best of our way to the Town. The Indians started a little Before us, and as their canoe was a Light one, they reached the Town a considerable time Before us. We got to the town at 9 o'clock, went down Below the town a little Distance; we kindled a fire and got our Breakfast. Several of the Indians came to our fire, but the principal man was out of town, and it seemed that we must wait for him. We waited until the afternoon, and were then given to understand that Con-ne-Shangon, their Cheif was Gon to Vanango, But a certain Captain John supplyd his place. He made us a speech in the afternoon to the following Effect: That him and all their men Returns thanks to almighty God for the opportunity of Speaking to his Brothers, that as he now speaks he hopes that you will hear; that you are come to poor people, that are all suffering. Another thing he hopes; that he knew nothing of our coming until he Looked up and saw us come Down the water; he hopes that we will take pity on their women and children and give them something to prevent them from starving.

MONDAY, July 5th.—Set off in the morning, two Indians Gowin with us, viz: Capt John and 10 Days; and the doctor on hors Back. About the middle of the afternoon we came to an Indian Camp on shore where the(y) had whiskey, which they offred us; at this camp we saw a Duchman who in the war had been taken Prisoner and it seem(s) ehused to continue with the Indians. We delayed but a short time at this camp; we put on and Left the Indians. After some time the Indians came up with us & the Doctor had got himself a little Drunk, just so much as to put him to show his horsmanship, and in attempting to ride up a steep Bank him and his horse tumbled together into the River. We took up our camp a little before sunset &c.

TUESDAY, July 6th.—Took our Breakfast and set off and came to Tuis-In-Guis-an-Gothtaw† about 10 o'clock. We soon found

\* Attention is called to the fact that the Fourth of July, 1790, came on Sunday. The Republic was then just fourteen years old, but it seems that the Commissioners did not "celebrate."

† Supposed to be the Indian town of *Tiozinosongochto*, as laid down on the Historical Map of Pennsylvania. It was in what is now Potter County, near the McKean line.

that the Doctor who had reached the town before us had been doing us ill offices with the people of the town. They looked remarkable sour, and insisted on our stoping until they could send for their cheif the Cornplanter who lived about 7 miles below, at a place called Jen Oh Show Dego.\* We said that we could go on and call on the Cornplanter, where he lived. They said no; it was not manly to call about Business at a Cabbin in the woods, and said that they had a hold of the stern of our canoe; plainly intimating that they could and would make us stay.

We thought it best to be as accomading as we could, and told them to send for the Cornplanter and we would stay untill the afternoon. About noon their cheif came and told us that he had sent for the Cornplanter; that he expected him soon, but that we must not think the time Long. His advise had no effect for we did think the day a verrey Long one. Night came at last but no Cornplanter.

WEDNESDAY, July 7th.—The Cornplanter came about 8 o'clock and appeared to be friendly disposed; said he would look for a place where we might meet and speak to each other. We met, Told our Business, and delivered the Cornplanter his letter which was read, and Interpretated to the Indians by one Matthews. They then all appeared in good humor; and the Cornplanter in a speech told us he was glad to see us, and gave us a welcom to anything we could catch in their country. Then we were addressed by an Oritor in behalf of the wemon. They told us, that they were Glad to see us, that they hoped we were well, that we had come a long road, that they had heard the good news we had brought, that they thought that as the severest part of the labour of living fell to their Lot, they had a right to Speak and to be heard, and again thanked us for our Good News, that they hoped that as soon as the Good Road we had spoke of was made, they would be able to purchase what things they wanted on Better terms.

True their Trade at this time was much worse than formerly owing to the Scarcity of Game, but that if a good Road was made it would still be worth while for Traders to come among them and that they hoped a Good Correspondence would still be cultivated between them and us untill we should become one people.

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\*Given on the Historical Map of Pennsylvania as *Jean Sedago*.

Their speech was answered verrey Properly by Col'l Matlack ; as soon as that was Ended though it rained we Got on Board of our Canoes and pushed Down the River, and took up our camp oposite Capt'n Jno. Obeal's Town\* and had the honor of his Company at supper.

THURSDAY, July 8th.—The morning rainy; after Breakfast it cleared, it cleared and Mr Adlum went up to the State line to survey the river & to assist me in making a Survey for the Cornplanter. This Business kept us Employed until about 4 o'clock; as we were Both wet when we came to camp we concluded to stay where we were for the night.

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\*This was the residence of Cornplanter, a distinguished Seneca Chief. His Indian name was Gy-ant-wa-chia, but among the English he was known as Abeel, O'Beal and O'Bail. The latter is correct according to the testimony of Mary Jemison. In the Indian language his town was called *Tenachshegonchtongee*, or the burnt house. When Colonel Proctor visited it, in 1791, he found the town pleasantly situated on the north side of the river and containing twenty-eight tolerably good houses or cabins. Cornplanter's father was a white man named O'Bail, and according to Stone, in his *Life of Brant* (Vol. II., p. 121), he was in the habit of traveling back and forth from Albany through the Seneca country, to Niagara, as a trader. Becoming enamored of a pretty squaw among the Senecas, in process of time the Cornplanter became one of the living evidences of his affection. When he grew to manhood and became a leader in his tribe he was not ignorant of his origin. Stone says that he sent a party of warriors to capture his father and bring him before him. On his arrival he informed the old man that he knew that he was his father, but he should not be harmed. If he chose to remain with him and adopt the manners and customs of his tribe, he would take care of him; if not, he would be allowed to depart in peace. The old man departed. Cornplanter figured prominently in the Indian wars. He was a contemporary of Washington and was at Braddock's defeat. He was one of the negotiators and signers to the treaties of Fort Stanwix and Fort Harmar. Once won over from the French, he maintained his allegiance to the English faithfully during the Indian war from 1790 to 1794, rendering valuable assistance to the general government and in the protection of the western frontiers of Pennsylvania. For these services, among other rewards, he received from Pennsylvania permission to select 1,500 acres of land from unappropriated territory for himself and his posterity. He chose for his own occupancy a tract of 640 acres on the Allegheny River, 14 miles above Warren. Here he located about 1790 and lived there until his death in 1836, at the age of one hundred or upwards, and here his descendants still live to the number of about seventy-five. In 1866 the Legislature authorized the erection of a monument to his memory, which was done under the direction of Samuel P. Johnson, Esq., of Warren, at a cost of \$550. Three of his children were present at the dedication, the last of whom died in 1874, at the age of about 100 years.—*History of Pennsylvania*, Egle, p. 1135.

FRIDAY, July 9th.—Set off after Breakfast, and proceeded down River to the mouth of the Kinjua\* where we parted with Mr Adlum; he proceeded up the Kinjua with two of the hand(s), accompanied with an Indian called Tim I Tugmutton. We proceeded Down the River to the mouth of the Cannowango† and Got up the same about 2 miles, where we incamped for the night.

SATURDAY, July 10th.—In the morning Proceeded up the Connowango about 2 miles further where we Left one of our canoes & all our Baggage that we could spare in the care of Sam'l Gibbons, takin with us only Provisions for 10 Days, and set off for the Jadockque Lake,‡ having one Mathews with us to act as an Interpreter, as we expected to met with several Indians. We kept with Deligence at the poles & Paddles all Day, and Got 17 miles as we computed.

SUNDAY, July 11th.—We started in the morning and kept steadily at work all day, and made as we computed 17 miles further up the Cannowango. In these 2 days Traveling, with our canoes, we had not more than 10 miles of strong watter, the Rest of the River being lik a mill Pond, and in the General so deep that we could not find the Bottom with our setting poles. For the shape of the River see paper numbred 2.

MONDAY, July 12th.—Set of(f) in the morning, and found it Extreemly Difficult to get up the creek; the water was verrey Low and Divided with a great number of small Islands, and the channels stoped up with Drift wood and timber that had fallen cross the creek. In some places we cleared a passage; in others we were obliged to Slide our canoe on Scates. We had about five miles of this kind of water; at length we entered the Jadockque Lake§

\*The Kinjua, which empties into the Allegheny River twelve miles above Warren.

†The Conewango Creek, which falls into the Allegheny at Warren, is the outlet of Chautauqua Lake.

‡Chautauqua Lake, in the State of New York, now such a popular place of resort.

§The lake is located in Chautauqua County, New York, about eight miles south of the eastern end of Lake Erie. It is a little over sixteen miles long, is 1,291 feet above tide water and 726 feet higher than Lake Erie. Its outlet issues from the southeastern end and enters Conewango Creek, which empties into the Allegheny River at Warren. Chautauqua, which is spelled "Shatakoin," "Jad-

which for about 2 miles widened Gradually. The Shores Remarkably muddy and covered with Splater Docks. From thence the lake opens at wonst, and has a verrey Pleasing appearance. We got about 4 miles up and encamped.

TUESDAY, July 13th.—Set off after Breakfast; the morning perfectly calm and the whole face of the Lake as far as the Eye could see, as smooth as Glass; the country beyond the Lake Rose Gradually, and was covered entirely with oak, now in Bloom. This with the Lake formed as Pleasing a Prospect as I ever Saw. We stude up the Lake to what we supposed was the head of it; when we had reached the part we took for its western point, we found it only a narrow point of Land that shote into the Lake, and found that we still had the Greater part of the Lake before us. We made all the speed, we possibly could and at one o'clock we got within a mile of the head of the Lake. We there went on shore and cooke(d) a pike we had shote that was three feet three inches Long, for our Dinner. After Dinner went round the head of the Lake and down the west side a Little Distance, where Colonel Matlack and I went on Shore in search of the Road to Lake Erie; we found it in a little time, and returned to our Canoe. Went a little further Down the Lake and encamped.

WEDNESDAY, July 14th.—In the morning Colonel Matlack, myself and two hands Got Redy with two days Provision, and set off on the old French Road to Lake Erie. We were able to travel the Road without difficulty. In many places the Cart Ruts were verrey plain. We walke(d) on in high Spirits untill Between Ten and Eleven o'clock when we were met by a Verrey heavy Rain, which lasted until near one o'clock. We at first took the best

achque," "Cahdocin," "Chaudauk-wa" and "Jah-dah-quah," by the early French writers, is said to mean "a place where a child was swept away by the waves," "where a fish was taken out," "the foggy place, &c." La Salle is supposed to have been the first white man to visit the lake, in August, 1669. Celoron followed, with a body of troops and Indians, in July, 1749. He explored the lake, and then descended through Conewango Creek to the Allegheny, where he buried a leaden plate signifying that he had taken possession of the country in the name of the King of France. When the French established a line of forts across the country to Pittsburg, Chautauqua Lake was one of their important points. They built a road connecting it with Lake Erie, over which they transported their troops, provisions and munitions of war.

shelter we could find, but soon found that we must be wet and thought that we might as well be wet walking as standin(g); and so traveled on and came to the Lake just as the first shower was over, as wet as water could make us. We eat our Dinners & Just as we had done, a second shower came up with just as much wind as set the Lake in motion; the swell rose to about 3 ft high and foamed on the shore. We then prepared to survey the Road Back to Jatocque Lake and set off wet as we were and surveyed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles and took up our Quarters in an old Indian Cabbin.

THURSDAY, July 15th.—We started early as our clothes were still wet notwithstanding all the pains we could take. We had this day as much rain as was sufficient to keep the Bushes wet; we however made all possible haste, and Got Back to our camp a half after 10 o'clock, verry wet and sufficiently tired. We found the Distance between the lakes to be Nine Miles and a Quarter, along the old Road, a nearer way might be found but perhaps the ground might be much worse. Lake Erie is a fresh water sea; from its shore you can see the Horision and water meet.

FRIDAY, July 16th.—Set out after Breakfast on our return, and had the Lake in fine order, the wind and waves subsiding. We made all the Speed we could and reached the out Let of the Lake about the middle of the afternoon. We continued to push towards our camping place on the Alegina until night.

SATURDAY, July 17th.—Set off early and continued to make the Best way with our canoe, all hands working and Reached the camp where we had left Gibbons just before Dark. From the mouth of Cannowango to Lake Erie, we compute it to be Eighty miles to go by water; the greater part of this Distance is through a verry Rich Soil. From the head of the Jatocque Lake along the old French Road is nine miles & a Quarter.

SUNDAY, July 18th.—Passed Down the Creek. In the morning met Mr Adlum and his party; he had returned from his Trip the Evening before, and was then making a survey. We passed on and agreed to wait for him at the lower end of an Indian Town called Brokenstraw,\* which had been distroyed in the last war by

\*The Brokenstraw Creek enters the Allegheny River about five miles below the town of Warren. An Indian town called Buckaloon, or Brokenstraw, once stood near the mouth of the creek, which was destroyed by a detachment under

General Broadhead. Before we had quite reached the place of our destination we were obliged to put on shore. A verrey heavy rain was comming on, we had just time to Pitch our markee before the heavy rain came, and as our markee was Pitched and not much short of the Place where we were to wait for Adlum we concluded to wait there.

MONDAY, July 19th.—We proceeded down the Alegina; the river had a considerable fall, and the men worked hard, we went as we computed at the Rate of 4 miles & one half in the hour. We kept close to our canoe all day and came something better than thirty miles.

TUESDAY, July 20th.—We continued our Route Down the River and arrived at Fort Frankland\* about 4 o'clock, and were kindly Recd by the commanding officer, Lieut. Jeffres, who seemed to be Desirous of oblidging us. On our way, about 4 miles above French (Creek), I killed a Catfish that weighed  $10\frac{1}{2}$  lb with Mr Adlum's Jacob Staff. We this day came by our Computation 20 miles; the whole distance from the mouth of Cannowango to French creek, supposed to be about 60 miles.

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Colonel Broadhead, from Pittsburg, in 1781. It required a siege of some days to drive out the Indians, who retreated to the high hills in the rear of the village. Colonel Daniel Broadhead is supposed to have been born at Albany about 1725. His father migrated to Pennsylvania in 1738 and settled at a place he called (after his own name) Dansbury, now East Stroudsburg, in Monroe County. Young Broadhead endured many privations during the Indian wars. In 1771 he settled in Reading and was soon afterwards appointed Deputy Surveyor under John Lukens. In 1776 he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Rifle Regiment and bore a conspicuous part in the Revolution. In the reorganization of the army in 1781 he was made Colonel of the First Regiment, and subsequently rose to the rank of a Brigadier. He afterwards served in the General Assembly, and in 1789 was appointed Surveyor General of the State, and held the office for eleven years. General Broadhead died at Milford, Pike County, November 15, 1809.—*See Pennsylvania Archives, New Series, Vol. X., p. 645.*

\*Fort Franklin was located near the mouth of French Creek. Old Fort Venango, as it was called by the English, was erected here in 1754 by the French. It was called by them Fort Machault, after a celebrated French financier and politician. When the French abandoned the place in 1759 they blew up the fort and burned their stores. Fort Franklin was built in 1787 by a detachment of 87 United States troops, from Pittsburg, under the command of Captam Hart. A garrison of 100 men was kept there until 1796. The town of Franklin, which was laid out by General William Irvine and Andrew Ellicott, under the act of 1795, is now a thrifty and pretty little city of nearly 6,000 inhabitants.



WEDNESDAY, July 21st.—Breakfasted with the commanding officer in the Garrison, and as we were out of Bread, and as several of the men had their feet sore with scalding, we concluded to stay at the fort this day and Get some Bread Baked, and let the men Rest one day. We dined and supped with the commanding officer who was exceedingly obliging and attentive.

THURSDAY, July 22d.—We this morning paid off and discharged an old Indian Cheiff and a white Shavage, which we had taken into pay at the Valley in the mountain, and are preparing to start for Lebuëff.\* Left the Fort at 2 o'clock in company with the other commissioners, mounted and equiped in such a manner as Beggars all Description; the appointments of the Vicar of Wakefield's family Going to Church would not bear comparrison. Our intention was to go to Mr Mead's at Cassonaggo that night; as we had previously started our Canoes and all hands, with orders to make the best of their way to that place. We rode on at the utmost speed our cattle could make, in the manner they and us were appointed, untill after dark, hoping every moment to come to some house, when to our Great disappointment we Lost the path, and had no resorce but to take up our Quarters and go to sleep. Before morning a heavy rain came on; we had no camp and were obliged to take it as it came. When the morning came our horses were gcne and we were obliged not only to take up our Beds, but our horse Furniture, and walk. We found it five miles to Mr Mead's.

FRIDAY, July 23d.—Came to Mr Meads, Got our Breakfast and took a walk to see Mr Mead's plantation† and Improvements. The

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\*Fort LeBoeuf was located at what is now Waterford, on French Creek, in Erie County. In the early French Archives the stream was called *Riviere aux Bœufs*; in the Pennsylvania Archives it is simply translated into English as the "Beef River," or the "Buffalo River," because buffaloes were found there by the early explorers. It was also called the Venango by the English, a name corrupted from the Seneca term, *In-un-gah*, from which the word Weningo, and later Venango, doubtless sprang. The present name, French Creek, appears to have been given the stream by George Washington during his visit to the French there in 1753, by direction of Governor Dinwiddie, of Virginia.

†David Mead was the first settler where the town of Meadville now stands. He was a native of Hudson, N. Y. His father, Darius Mead, when his son became of age, removed to Wyoming, where they both had purchased lands under the Pennsylvania title. Owing to the Connecticut troubles they abandoned their lands and settled near Northumberland. David Mead afterwards became a citizen

soil all along this creek Remarkably Rich; the Low Ground in particular in appearance the Richest I ever saw. We had sent off our men with the canoe and Baggage before us from Fort Frankland, and were in expectation that they would have joined this evening but are Disappointed.

SATURDAY, July 24th.—The men and canoe arrived. We immediately set of; Col'l Matlack and myself with four hands in the canoe & Mr Adlum with Neal St Clair and John Ria\* whom we had taken into pay at Cassawaggo, by land; and appointed to met at Leboueff. We made the best way we could but were much interrupted with the Ripples and Shoales. About 1 o'clock we were stopped with a shower of rain; we made by our calculation about 8 miles this day and encamped.

SUNDAY, July 25th.—Set of(f) and made way as fast as Possible but were much Delayed and the men much fatigued by the Shoales and Ripples, where the men were obliged to Drag the canoe. By 12 o'clock we had got 10 miles as we computed when we stopped to Dine. I had felt for the two preceeding day(s) a soreness cross my kidneys, and while at Dinner I was stooping for a bit of meat

of Sunbury, where he kept an inn for several years. After various discouraging struggles with fortune and the Indians, he left Sunbury to seek a home west of the Allegheny River. In 1788 he visited this section of the country, then a wilderness, with his brother John and several others. In 1789 he moved his family out. After years of toil and privation his prospects began to brighten, when another Indian war was threatened. Many fled, but Mr. Mead, having important interests at stake, remained. The Indian troubles were happily terminated by General Wayne in 1795. For several months in 1791, when the Indians were daily expected to attempt the extermination of the settlers on French Creek, Mr. Mead, with his family, resided at Franklin, so that they might be able to seek refuge in the fort in case of danger. During this time his father, who had followed him to his western home, was taken by two Indians from a field, where he was at work, and carried to the vicinity of Conneaut Lake, where he was afterwards found dead. One of his captors also laid dead near him, showing that there had been a severe struggle. In 1799 Mr. Mead became one of the associate judges for Crawford County. He was also a Major General in the militia. In size he stood six feet three, and was large in proportion. Of a vigorous mind, he was always actively engaged upon public or private business. His first wife was Agnes Wilson, of Northumberland County; his second, Janet Finney, daughter of Robert Finney, Esq. The Mead mansion was noted for the hospitality of its occupants. He died August 23, 1816, in the 65th year of his age.—*Alden's Magazine, Meadville, 1816.*

\* Properly, Rea.

I was taken with so sharp a pain that I had almost fallen. After Dinner was over we all got on Board; I laid on my Belley as the easiest position the crowded situation of the canoe would afford. After some time I wished to change my Position but was unable and was obliged to Remain so untill the canoe stopped at night to encamp. After the tent was pitched and the fire kindled, the men assisted me, and with difficulty I got to the fire.

MONDAY, July 26th.—Unable to assist myself any way, can only move my hands and arms. The men put me on board the Canoe and proceeded up the creek. At 12 o'clock we arrived at the mouth of the Leboeuff Branch and found the water in (it) so low, that the men were obliged to open a channel with the paddles to get fairly into the Branch. We proceeded only a little way further until we met with another bar where the men were obliged to open a passage with the paddles. As Mr Adlum had arrived at the mouth of the Branch at 3 o'clock this morning and left a note informing us that we would find him encamped at the old Fort, about 3 miles above the mouth of the Branch, Colonel Matlack and Mathew Gray who was sick went on shore and took the Indian path; I was obliged to stay in the canoe being unable either to Rise or stand.

The men made all the way they could but were obstructed to such a degree by Shoale water and Driftwood, that when it was time to encamp we were not more than a mile from the mouth of the Branch. I Directed them to go on shore and encamp. As soon as they had got a fire made they carried me to it, and made a seat on which with difficulty I sat for some time. I then sent off Hicks to the uper camp to inform them that the canoe could not come up that night. He was on the way met by Neal St Clair and Jno Ria and returned. By St Clair & Ria I sent them some provision to their camp, as they were out. After sitting a while and taking some chocolate I felt something Better.

(CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH.)

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JOHN HENRY SIMLER, it is claimed, built the first house in Philipsburg, Centre County, 90 years ago.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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Two Dollars per Annum, in Advance. Single Numbers, Twenty Cents.

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Address all letters and communications relating to literary matters, subscription or advertising to

JOHN F. MEGINNESS, *Editor and Publisher*,  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

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WILLIAMSPORT, OCTOBER, 1887.

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IN referring to the opening of the Catawissa Railroad, between Danville and Milton, last month, an error crept into the date. An esteemed friend writes: "The road was completed to Milton in the fall, or early winter, (perhaps September, as you have it), of 1854. The opening excursion trip, from Philadelphia to Elmira, took place as far as Williamsport, I think, on New Year's Day, or at all events in January, 1855. Many persons will certainly remember the great illumination and jubilation on that severely cold January night, when I for the first time in the old Court House listened to Daniel Dougherty, who was then known as the 'silver-tongued orator.' On the desk in front of me, as I write, I see my letter of appointment—signed by Horatio King, First Assistant Postmaster General under Pierce's administration—as special agent, and on the 1st of April, 1855, I went over the route with the first United States mail that ever passed over the Catawissa Railroad." The citation of the dates by our correspondent, and the incidents connected therewith, pretty clearly settle the time of the completion and opening of the railroad between the points named.

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THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL for September gave as its frontispiece the copy of an old engraving, showing how the central part of Williamsport looked forty-five years ago. In that picture the old Court House was a central and conspicuous figure. In this number a view of the present Court House is given, which serves to show

the change that has been wrought in the last twenty-seven years. The present Court House was built in 1860 and cost \$50,000. It contains all the public offices of the county, besides the regular court room and a room for the United States Courts for the Western District of Pennsylvania, which meet here in June and September, when the appropriations will warrant it. The building is illuminated throughout with the Edison electric light and heated by steam.

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THE editor of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL has often been solicited to publish a revised edition of the *History of the West Branch Valley*. After considering the matter carefully for several months he has decided *not* to do it. The work and expense involved, to produce such a book as the public would expect, are too great to warrant the outlay, which would undoubtedly exceed the revenue. In the meantime those interested in the preservation of our early history and the biography of pioneers, will find more in the pages of the monthly in the course of two or three years than they ever would in a book; and that, too, at a much less expense. Our advice to all interested parties is: Order THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL before the limited edition is exhausted, because it will *not* be reproduced either.

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AN exhaustive and carefully prepared article on "Old Fort Augusta" is contemplated at an early day. An engraving of the plan of the fort will be given, together with other illustrations. All the old letters, orders, instructions and documents relating to the building of the famous stockade, which bore such a conspicuous part in our early history, will be reproduced, and much new matter given. Persons possessing relics of the fort, incidents, anecdotes or reminiscences of its early defenders, are requested to notify the editor of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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THE second instalment of the journal of Hon. Samuel Maclay, printed herewith, will be found deeply interesting. The third and last instalment will be as attractive as the first and second. It will describe the journey of the Commissioners up the Kishkimetans and Conemaugh rivers into the very heart of the Allegheny Mountains.

## FIRST SCHOOLS IN WILLIAMSPORT.

BY J. F. WOLFINGER, MILTON.

1795, April 13, Lycoming County was organized out of a part of Northumberland County by order of the State Legislature, and the town of Williamsport was not only laid out this same year, by Michael Ross, an active and intelligent European German, but also became the seat of justice for Lycoming County the same year.

1800. About this time the first school house in Williamsport was built. It was a rude log structure and stood on the southeast corner of the present Court House Square. James Watson was the first teacher in this common English school house, and Apollos Woodward, one of the late Associate Judges of Lycoming County, also taught school there for some time in his youthful days, but whether he was the immediate successor of Watson is unknown. Among the taxable heads of families in Williamsport in 1806 we find the names of Bess, Boone, Buyers, Calvert, Collins, Cummings, Doan, Dumm, Eldridge, Emmons, Green, Haller, Hays, Hepburn, Heylman, Houston, Hunter, Hyman, Freeman, Levergood, McClure, McElrath, McEwen, Moore, Murphy, Murray, Ross, Shaffer, Sloan, Tallman, Throp, Titus, Turk, Updegraff, Vanderbelt, Waters, Watson, Wilkinson, Winters, Woodward and Young. And the following new taxable residents appeared on the list in 1807: Bailey, Biss, Brindle, Harris, McConnell, Lenover, Pidcock, Scates, Steiner, and Strawbridge; and it was the sons and daughters of these families who were the scholars in this first school house of Williamsport.

1803. The old brick Court House, a neat two-story building, began in 1801, (but now gone), was finished and began to be used for the holding of the Lycoming County Courts. It stood just where the present much larger brick Court House now stands. For a part of the time prior to 1803, (as the late Apollos Woodward, of Williamsport, informed me), the Lycoming Courts were held in a two-story log dwelling house that stood on the southwest corner of the present Court House yard—said square of ground having been generously donated by Mr. Ross to the county for the erection of their public buildings. How long the old log school house, here noticed, was permitted to stand on this Court House

Square, and when it was torn down or removed, and what became of it, are questions that I cannot answer.

## OLD WILLIAMSPORT ACADEMY.

1811, April 2, the State Legislature passed an act establishing the "Williamsport Academy for the Education of Youth in the English and other Languages, in the Useful Arts, Science and Literature," and granting it \$2,000 out of the State Treasury. Its first board of trustees, eight in number, consisted of William Wilson, Ellis Walton, Thomas Caldwell, Samuel E. Greer, Thomas Hays, William Brindle, James Stewart and Robert McClure. The sixth section of its charter required the proceedings of this Academy to be recorded in a book used for that purpose, and this book, if it could now be had, would give us much valuable information, now lost and beyond our reach. The building erected in pursuance of this authority was a plain but substantial brick structure, of an octagonal form, or eight-cornered in shape, and two stories high, with four good sized rooms, two up stairs and two down—said rooms being separated from each other, on each floor, by a suitable entry and stairway. It stood\* on the corner of Third and West streets, the then western end of Williamsport, and from the elevated nature of its ground had a clear and beautiful view of the Susquehanna River and of the picturesque Bald Eagle Mountain on the South Side. When we look at the number of rooms in this Academy, and the fact that the English language was to be taught there, I am strongly inclined to think that this was the second school house in Williamsport, and that it was designed to accommodate all of its scholars, those who studied English as well as those who studied Greek and Latin.

The first teacher in this Academy was the Rev. Samuel Henderson, and his successors in regular order, on down to 1835, were Justus Dart, Francis Graham, ——— Blaisdell, F. M. Wadsworth, Richard Chadwick, James Teas, Isaac K. Torbert and Joseph Rathmell; and for the following facts concerning their personal history I am mainly indebted to the researches of my late aged and venerable friend, T. Coryell, Esq., of Williamsport.

1. Henderson was a graduate of Edinburgh College, in Scot-

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\* It still stands there, and is now used for a dwelling house.

land, who, after studying theology, emigrated to and preached at Wilmington, in the State of Delaware. He then came to Williamsport and took charge of its Academy, and also preached several years for the Presbyterian people of Williamsport and Newberry. He afterwards preached at Shamopan, in Bradford County, and finally moved to or near Pittsburg, where he died.

2. Dart was a good English scholar from our Eastern States, and went West.

3. Graham was a fine arithmetician and after several years' stay at Williamsport, went South.

4. Blaisdell was a good teacher, from the State of New York, who studied law at Williamsport, but what became of him is unknown.

5. Wadsworth was a graduate of Yale College, in the State of Connecticut. He studied law under J. B. Anthony, Esq., of Williamsport, and afterwards practiced law in Perry and then in York County, where he died.

6. Chadwick came here from the State of New Jersey, was a fine mathematician, and afterwards went to Smethport, in McKean County, and served as its Prothonotary for a good many years, and died there.

7. Teas came to Williamsport in 1828 and left it in 1830, and settled himself as a physician at Northumberland, where he died. He was from Milton, and one of the old Milton Academy scholars; a tall, sedate and fine looking man.

8. Torbert was a native of Lycoming County, a printer by profession, who published the *Lycoming Gazette* for several years and became the author of "Torbert's Arithmetick," a work of some value.

9. Rathmell was one of Wadsworth's Williamsport Academy students, and became a good Greek and Latin scholar and afterwards an excellent teacher himself. Rathmell was a big, heavy man of a quiet nature, slow and easy in his movements, but sure. He died at Williamsport a few years ago. I often met him and knew him well when I was a student at law under J. B. Anthony, at Williamsport.

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BACK numbers of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL can always be supplied to new subscribers.



## LITERARY NOTES.

The Lancaster *Inquirer* devotes much attention to the gathering of historical facts in that part of the State, and it has become a valuable repository of local history. Its course is highly commendable.

We welcome the *Western Antiquary*, of Plymouth, England, to our exchange list. As its name imports, it is filled with valuable matter relating to Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. The *Antiquary* is edited with marked ability by W. H. K. Wright, F. R. H. S., and Borough Librarian of Plymouth. Subscription price, eight shillings per annum.

The *Historical Record*, published at Wilkes-Barre, by Dr. F. C. Johnson, improves as it grows older. The current number is exceedingly valuable, being filled with choice matter relating to early times in the Wyoming region. An illustrated article entitled, "Relics of the Red Men," is alone worth a year's subscription, which is only \$1.50.

A valued correspondent has furnished THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL with a carefully written biographical sketch of Rev. David Kirkpatrick, who taught a famous classical school in Milton many years ago. He also gives the names of nearly all the pupils whom he graduated. It will appear in an early number.

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THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL has several valuable contributions on file, which have been crowded over by the length of Maclay's journal. Among them may be mentioned an article on "Roswell Franklin," contributed by Rev. J. N. Hubbard, of Tracy, California, and the History of Methodism on the North Branch of the Susquehanna, by C. F. Hill. They will appear as soon as room can be found for them.

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IN October, 1830, the Pennsylvania Canal was completed from Northumberland to Muncy Dam. And in November of the same year John Deeter, of Milton, ran the first boat through to Milton. It was named "West Branch," and the cargo consisted of store goods from Baltimore, for Moore & Sterling. The arrival of the boat was regarded as a great event by the people of that day.

## NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

THE oldest inhabitant of Muncy Borough at this time is Abigail Edwards. She was born in Buffalo Valley, on the 10th day of September, 1792. Her parents settled on the Glade Run, in Muncy Valley, when she was only about nine months old, and this vicinity has always been her home. She still moves about the house with a nimbleness that even octogenarians often fail to exhibit, and her mind has preserved the same exceptional degree of vigor. In the course of an interesting chat with a friend, the other day, who found her contentedly taking care of a little great-grandchild, she made the following observations, which are given almost in her own words: "I am just as well as you could expect me to be—for you know I am now ninety-five years old. I have always had good health, and all the doctoring and medicine I ever had did not cost ten dollars. We didn't get fed on candies and rich cake when I was a child. I am not of much use in the world now any more, and I am ready to go any time, but the Lord it seems don't want me just yet. I remember well when I was quite young a small company of Indians encamped along the Glade Run, near our place. I was afraid of them and didn't go near them. They begged food of the settlers, and did not hurt anybody. One of the men showed my father a lump of silver, and told him that there was lots of it close at hand. The settlers of the Muncy Hills often hunted for it, but I guess nobody ever found it. I remember too how we all felt when we had the last war with England. My parents were strict Quakers and thought it was wrong to go to war, but we young folks got other ideas into our heads. I had two brothers and a sister. One of the boys marched off to the war, and came home safe. I might have gone too if I had been a boy, as I was not a good Quaker. I always liked to hear preaching and singing when I went to meeting."

PETER BASTRESS, now one of the oldest residents of the borough of Jersey Shore, was born at Pottstown, Berks County, November 12, 1808, and came here with his parents in 1817. His father, Solomon Bastress, who is well remembered as one of the representative men of Lycoming County, was also born at Pottstown, January 20, 1788, and died at Jersey Shore May 12, 1872, in the 84th year

of his age. His father, Peter Bastress, and grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born at Pottstown, July 9, 1758, and died at Lebanon in 1837, aged 79 years. Solomon Bastress was a weaver and dyer by trade, but after settling here he became a surveyor and scrivener, and carried on that business in addition to his trade.

Before locating here he had entered into partnership with John Slonaker, John Brown and Philip Krebs, to build an iron furnace on Upper Pine Bottom Run, above the First Forks of Pine Creek, in 1814, and they carried it on until 1817, when it was blown out. His father superintended the furnace while it was in operation. The ruins of the stack may yet be seen,

Solomon Bastress was sent to the Legislature from Lycoming County in 1827, and re-elected in 1828-9-30, serving four terms in succession. In 1846 he was elected an Associate Judge, and served until 1856, a period of ten years, having been re-elected in the meantime.

Many of his friends who had settled in that portion of the county now embraced in Bastress, when it came to be erected into a township in 1854, insisted, inasmuch as he had frequently done surveying and writing for them, that it should be named after him, and it was done.

In addition to being a surveyor, member of the Legislature and Associate Judge, Solomon Bastress also served as a Justice of the Peace for a number of years in Jersey Shore. No man in the county stood higher or was more respected and honored by the people than Judge Bastress. And it is a pleasure to add that his son, Peter Bastress, stands equally high. He has often been tendered office by his fellow citizens, but has steadily declined. He is now quietly spending the evening of his life at his comfortable residence on the hill-side, overlooking the town of Jersey Shore, honored and respected by his friends and neighbors.

MRS. ANN GRAY was born on Staten Island, September 6th, 1795. Her father, William Vaname, was a sea captain. When Mrs. Gray was three years old he gave up the sea and moved to Binghamton, N. Y., by wagon and settled on a farm where the centre of that town now stands. Her husband, Arthur Gray, died in the year 1862, in the 70th year of his age. Had he lived a few

months longer they would have celebrated their golden wedding. Mrs. Gray spends the time visiting her children, Mrs. Joseph DuBois, of Waverly, N. Y., and Mrs. Abel DuBois, of Williamsport. On the occasion of attaining her 92d birthday anniversary, on the 6th instant, she was the recipient of many tokens of love and friendship from her friends and neighbors, and a dinner was given to commemorate the event. It is rarely one meets with so elderly a person with every faculty unimpaired. Mrs. Gray is particularly active and bids fair to live many years to come. She had nine children, four of whom are living. Her two sons, William and Christopher Gray, are living on the homestead, in Broome County, N. Y., near Binghamton.

J. B. SCOUT, the oldest born resident of Northumberland, is a man of remarkable vitality for his age. He was born August 4, 1805, where the cemetery is now located, and is 82 years old. Mr. Scout retains all his mental faculties and voted at the last primary election. He learned the trade of a blacksmith in 1829, which he followed until 1880. In 1875 he lost his wife, who was then 75 years old.

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### RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

HERSH WEYLE, who died at Tylersville, Clinton County, September 4, 1887, was 86 years and 8 months old. Deceased was a German by birth and came to this country thirty years ago. He was much respected by the community in which he lived. His remains were taken to Bellefonte for interment.

DANIEL TONNER, who died at Canton, Ohio, August 24th, 1887, was a native of Centre County, Pennsylvania, and would have been 69 years old had he lived until December next. He learned the trade of a carpenter, but after locating in Ohio he became the book-keeper and correspondent for an extensive manufacturing firm in Canton, which position he filled until the close of his life. He was highly esteemed by the community in which he lived.

DANIEL FOLLMER, who died at his home in Turbut Township, Northumberland County, on the 19th of August, 1887, had reached the ripe age of 81 years, 4 months and 6 days. Mr. Follmer was born on the farm adjoining the one on which he died. During his

long lease of life he devoted himself to agricultural pursuits, meeting with abundant rewards for his labor. He maintained the strictest integrity in his relations with every one, and no man in that community stood higher in the esteem of the people than he. He exercised great zeal in church matters and died with the fullest hope of a heavenly reward. He survived his wife about five years. Four sons and four daughters comprise the children, all of whom are living.

JOHN JOHNSON, colored, died in Lawrence Township, Clearfield County, September 3, 1887, at the great age of 116 years. The *Republican* says that he was a native of Falmouth, Virginia, and remembered hearing a courier announce the surrender of Cornwallis, October 19, 1781. He was about ten years old at that time.

MRS. MORIARTY, who died near Farrandsville, Clinton County, a few days ago, is supposed to have been about 103 years old. No facts regarding the time and place of her birth are obtainable.

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### TOMBSTONE RECORD.

Michael Ross, the founder of the city of Williamsport, lies buried in the old cemetery on Washington street. His wife lies by his side. Neat tombstones, bearing the following records, mark their last resting places:

Sacred  
To the memory of  
MICHAEL ROSS, Esq'r  
Proprietor of the Borough of  
Williamsport  
Who Departed this life  
June 20th AD. 1819  
In the 60th Year of his age.

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Sacred  
To the memory of  
ANN CORSON  
Wife of  
MICHAEL ROSS, Esq  
Who Departed this life  
July 31st AD. 1818  
In the 55th year of her age.

Their graves, which are enclosed, are kept in good order by the

hands of loving descendants, and hundreds of friends and strangers visit them annually.

In the neatly enclosed cemetery, on the side-hill, near the famous medicinal well at Sizerville, Cameron County, are two plain tombstones bearing the following inscriptions:

HIRAM SIZER

Born

In Hampden Co. Mass.

July 17, 1791.

Removed to Cameron Co. 1819

Died June 9, 1869

aged

78 y. 10 mo's & 23 ds.

---

POLLY

Wife of

HIRAM SIZER

Died

Feb. 5, 1882

Aged 95 y's & 11 mo's

She was Born at

Springfield, Hampden Co. Mass

May 10, 1786.

Under a clump of locust trees in the lower part of the Borough of Watsontown are four lonely graves. A plain stone at the head of the first one reached bears this inscription:

SAMUEL STOCKS.

Died

April 16th 1844

Aged 71 years.

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From England.

Samuel Stocks carried on a small woolen factory for many years near the mouth of White Deer Creek, in Union County. He was a bachelor. R. H. McCormick, Esq., of Watsontown, remembers him well. He says that he was a noted character, and spoke with a strong English accent.

A few yards further on three more graves in a group are reached. The headstones bear these inscriptions:

In  
Memory of  
Jenny first wife of  
JOHN WILSON, who Died  
March 6th 1787  
In the 33d year of her age

---

In  
Memory of  
JOHN WILSON  
Who Died Feb'y 15th 1813  
In the 61st year of his age.

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In  
Memory of  
Margaret, 2d wife of  
JOHN WILSON  
Who departed this life  
May 23d, 1818  
Aged 50 years.

The crumbling remains of what was once a rough stone wall surrounds the narrow enclosure where Wilson and his two wives were laid long, long ago.

The original Warrior Run Church—a log structure—stood near this old grave-yard, on the bank of the river. When Rev. Fithian visited it Sunday, July 16, 1775, and preached to the people from a wagon, it was not yet covered.

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ACCORDING to *Now and Then* the first slate roof in Muncy was put on the brick blacksmith shop of Charles Mozley. The second was on the brick foundry erected by Trumbower & Company. This must have been in 1871 or 1872, as the publication containing the statement bears date September, 1872.

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THIS issue of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL closes the sixth month of its existence. All subscriptions unpaid are now due.

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SAMUEL WALLIS was the owner of the first hounds brought into Muncy Valley.

NEARLY all the land now occupied by the borough of Beech Creek, Clinton County, belongs to what was known as the "Lieutenant Wiggins tract," a part of the "officers' survey." The credit of starting the village belongs to Michael Quigley, who, about the year 1812, bought 30 acres of land off the "Wiggins tract" and constructed a grist mill. At, or about the same time, Quigley built a dwelling for himself a short distance south of the mill, one room of which was used as a store. The first person using it for that purpose was "Buck" Claflin, father of the celebrated Claflin girls. Beech Creek borough was organized in 1869, and the census of 1880 gave it a population of 400. It is probably 500 at the present time.

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GENERAL MONTCALM, writing to his friend, the Chevalier de Bourlaamque, gives the following picture of the condition of affairs at Fort Duquesne just before its fall: "Mutiny among the Canadians. who want to come home; the officers busy with making money, and stealing like mandarins. Their commander sets the example, and will come back with three or four hundred thousand francs; the pettiest ensign, who does not gamble, will have ten, twelve, or fifteen thousand. The Indians don't like Ligueris, who is drunk every day."

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WHILE working on South Market street, Muncy, a short time ago, Henry Cable found an old English penny bearing the date of 1735 or 1737. It was found about a foot below the surface and was very much corroded. The penny was probably lost by some early settler or explorer, and has lain buried for one hundred and fifty years.

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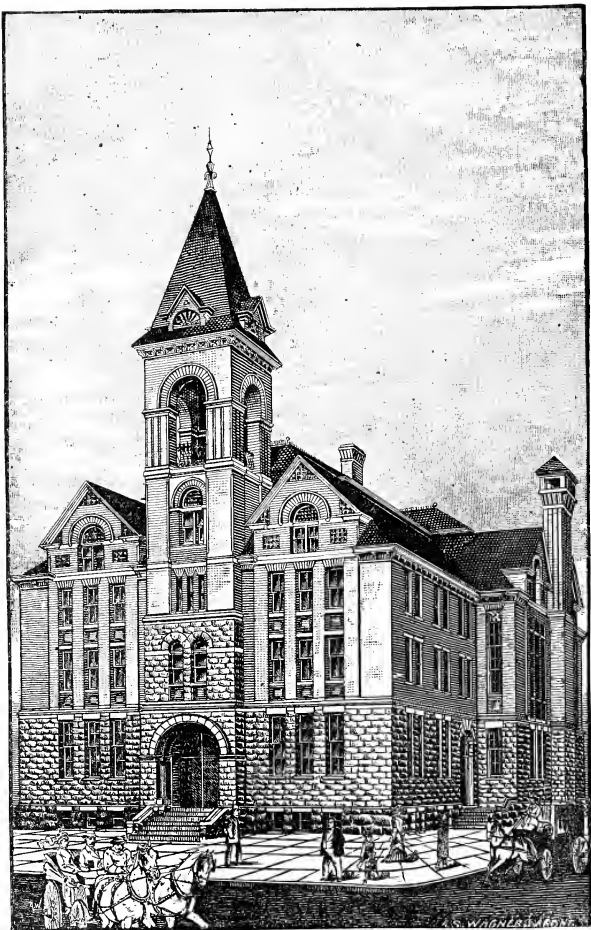
WE hear of many persons throughout the country who express their intention of taking THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL. If they do not hurry up and order it they may find the edition exhausted when they want it. Back numbers can still be supplied, but once they run out they will not be reproduced.

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WHO will furnish us with a history of the old cemetery at Halls, where Captain John Brady was buried after being shot by the Indians on the 11th of April, 1779? It is one of the oldest burying places in Lycoming County.







Central High School Building, Williamsport, Pa.

A. S. WAGNER, ARCHITECT.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1887, by JOHN F. MEGINNESS, in the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

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Vol. 1.

NOVEMBER, 1887.

No. 7.

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## JOURNAL OF SAMUEL MACLAY, 1790.

ANNOTATED BY JOHN F. MEGINNESS.

TUESDAY, July 27th.—John Ria and Neal St Clair came from the upper camp and brought me a line from Colonel Matlack informing me what things and Provisions they wanted, and that they intended to start immediately for Lake Erie; I sent them the men provisions &c without any Delay, and here I am left unable to help myself, though much Better.

[Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st, are blank.]

SUNDAY, August 1st.—We arrived at Fort Frankland about 3 o'clock. Though I continued to get something better, yet I mended but slowly. This afternoon I collected a small quantity of oyl\* from a small oyl spring in the bank of French creek, with which I had my back rubbed before I went to bed.

MONDAY, August 2d.—Felt something better and had my back rubbed with the oyl this morning. We spent the forenoon in preparing and fitting out a party to survey the Allegina River, but were prevented from sending them off by rain that came on about 12 o'clock.

TUESDAY, August 3d.—Started our surveying party and took

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\*This was what was afterwards known as the famous Petroleum, or "Rock Oil." It was gathered by the Cornplanter Indians as it was found floating on the surface of the water. In after years the great oil field was developed in this region.

the necessary measures to follow them as soon as possible. Set off about 3 o'clock Down the River but did not overtake the surveying party that day.

WEDNESDAY, August 4th.—Set off Down the River and about 9 o'clock passed the camp where the surveying party had slept the night Before, and overtook them in a short time afterwards. Left them and told them that we would encamp so as that they might come to us that night, which they Did accordingly.

THURSDAY, August 5th.—Started the Surveying party Early in the morning, as we were obliged to Detain a while in order to Bake some Bread. As soon as that was done, we followed and overtook them, and gave them some provisions and then made the Best of our way for the mouth of Toby's Creek.\* At 1 o'clock we had a heavy shower; after it was over we proceeded down the River, and came to the mouth of Toby's Creek about 5 o'clock, and Before we had time to pitch our tent we had another heavy shower followed by a Rainy night.

FRIDAY, August 6th.—The morning showery and continued so untill 12 o'clock, when it cleared up a little, but does not yet promise fair weather. Our Survey party not yet come, though it is now passed 4 o'clock. Surveying party came in before night, and after them John Rea and Fred'k Bawm† came to our Camp. It was therefore agreed that Bawm and Rea should be taken in to pay for four days, and that I with one hand in addition should survey the River Down to the Kishcaminitas‡ while the other commissioners were employed in Exploring the Toby's Creek.

SATURDAY, August 7th.—Started with my party and surveyed nine miles and a half & took up our quarters.

SUNDAY, August 8th.—Continued our survey 11 miles further down the River.

MONDAY, August 9th.—The morning rains and seems to threaten

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\* Now called the Clarion River. It empties into the Allegheny a short distance from the town of Clarion. It was called "Stump Creek" at one time as well as "Toby's."

† Properly Baum.

‡ The Kishkiminitas River forms the southern boundary of Armstrong County, and empties into the Allegheny one mile north of Freeport. According to Heckewelder the name is corrupted from *Gieschgunanito*, signifying, make daylight.

a Rainy day; the day continued showery but I started and continued the survey of the River. At night we encamped a little below the old Kittaning\* town.

TUESDAY, August 10th.—Was obliged to spend the morning in baking. We camped the night Before, a little way above the mouth of Crooked Creek, and in the lower end of the Kittaning Bottom. We continued our survey but were prevented from Reaching the Kishcaminitas by John Rea finding a part of the carriage of a cannon† which he stripped of all its Iron; this he found near a small Island above the Kittaning. We encamped half a mile above the Junction of the Kishcaminitas with the Alegina River, and had I known we were so near, I would have come all the way.

[NOTE.—In the original the above entry is lined out, and for some unaccountable reason its substance is repeated in the following, thus leaving a hiatus of one day.]

WEDNESDAY, August 11th.—We were obliged to bake this morning which lost us some time, and after Dinner we lost 3 hours by John Rea, who found part of the carriage of a field piece and delayed us untill he took off the Irons, which prevented me from reaching the Kishcaminitas. We came within 200 rods of it, but did not Expect we were so near.

THURSDAY, August 12th.—Came to the junction of the Kishcaminitas with the Ohio river and finished my survey; found it to be  $85\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the mouth of French Creek to the Kishcaminitas. Discharged John Rea and Frederick Bawm; they Proceeded on their way to Pittsburgh and Neal St Clair and I took up our camp on the west side of the Ohio opposite the Kishcaminitas. This day sold John Rea 16 lb Gun Powder, for which he is to send me 8 lb Best Beaver furr.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, August 13th, 14th and 15th.—Waited for Mr Adlum and Colonel Matlack. Did nothing; only Removed my camp about a mile up the Kishcaminitas to the mouth of a small run on the south side of the creek.

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\*This was an Indian town of some importance at an early date. It was destroyed by Colonel John Armstrong, September 8, 1756. It was known among the Indians as Attigue.

† Probably abandoned during Armstrong's expedition, or by some other military party—possibly the French.

MONDAY, August 16th.—Yet no account from Adlum and Matlack. The day showry with thunder.

TUESDAY, August 17th.—The morning Lowers a rains a Little, which together with my indisposition keeps me close to my tent. Yet no account from the Commissioners.

WEDNESDAY, August 18th.—Waited untill I'm intirely out of patience and yet not one word from the Commissioners; one whole week now spent but it is in vain to freet. Yesterday, several showers and last night a heavy rain, and it still keeps cloudy and rains a little. After dinner took a walk Down to the mouth of the River, and Saw our people comming down in their canoes. Mr Adlum and Colonel Matlack came on shoar to me at the mouth of the River and we walked up the Beach for my camp, but were overtaken with a middlin heavy shower on our way. We Got to the Camp and agreed to Remain there for that night.

THURSDAY, August 19th.—Got Ready Early in the morning and started up the Kishcaminitas River. Saw two white men on the River in a canoe. Continued to make all the speed we could untill night and then took up our camp on the west side, or rather southwest side of River at the foot of a Rocky hill near the mouth of a small spring.

FRIDAY, August 20th.—Continued our Jorney up the River and arrived at the mouth of Loyalhannon\* at one oclock; and as we had had several days of showery weather and continued moistness in the air, our Cloathes of every kind were Damp and Disagreeable, and as the afternoon was a fine one we agreed to let the men rest and Dry their Cloathes, and ours. We had this day been attempting to procure some fresh Provisions on our way up, from the Inhabitants along the River, and had been unsucksesful; we therefore sent off two of our men in order to procure either Butter or meat of any kind. They Returned with(out) Sueksess.

SATURDAY, August 21st.—As all our attempts yesterday to procure provisions had been fruitless, we were obliged to stay this day in order to get a supply of Both flour and meat; we were Luckay enough this morning to get the half of a Veal from one Samuel

\*The Loyalhanna Creek runs northwestward through Westmoreland County, and unites with the Conemaugh River at Saltsburg, to form the Kishkiminetas.

Hoy, who lives a little way below the mouth of Loyalhanning,\* and sent off a man and horse to Denison's mill which is eight miles up Loyalhanning creek, in order to procure some flour; the man is not yet returned.

A little after Dark the man sent to mill returned and brought us a small supply of flour and a few pounds of Butter. We have to acknowledge our obligations to Col'o Will'm Perrey, who furnished us with a horse and sent his son to mill for us for the flour. He lives just above the mouth of Loyalhanning.

SUNDAY, August 22d.—The morning cloudy but so much time already Elapsed we must make every possible Exertion to get through our Bussness; we proceeded up the River about 10 miles and encamped for the day.

MONDAY, August 23d.—Proceeded up the River; met with great difficulty; on account of the Low water were obliged to drag our canoes over the Ripples and were able to get only about 8 miles. This day Encamped above an old Indian field on the southwest of the River; this field is Remarkable for the Great number of Bones we found in it.

TUESDAY, August 24th.—Pursued our Journey up the River, and with all the Exerscions we could make it was 1 o'clock before we had Got  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, & the men were quite Exausted with the Labour of Dragging the Canoes up the Ripples. We came on shore to Dine and before we had done, a rain came on which induced us to pitch our tents for the night. We employed the afternoon in trying to procure pack horses to carry our Baggage to Franks town and happily Succeeded.

WEDNESDAY, August 25th.—This morning we were Busseyley employed in adjusting the Loads for the horses. As soon as this was done we took our packs on our Backs, and started at 11 o'clock and made the Best of our way up the River. We had got but a little way when we were overtaken by a smart shower at a place where we had no shelter of any kind. We proceeded up through the narrows where the River Cuts the Chesnut Ridge; these narrows are five miles in Length and the hill(s) come Down close to the water edge, so that we were obliged often to wade the River,

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\* Opposite the site of the present town of Saltsburg, Indiana County.

and had Exceeding Bad walking as there was scarcely any Beech and the Rocks and Laurel come close to high water mark. We had Likewise several heavy shower(s) so that Between the wading the River and the Rain we were wet Indeed. About sunset we came to a house where one David Ingard lives, and took up our Quarters for the Night having Traveled about eight or nine miles.

THURSDAY, August 26th.—We set off early in the morning and proceeded up the River. Had much better walking this day and a fine clear day. We kept close to it, and arrived at the mouth of Stony Creek \* a little before sunset, and went up Stoney Creek half a mile to where one Daniel LaVere Lives, who Received us with an oppen Countenance. We this day came through the narrows formed by the Laurel Hill and found it in Ginerall Good walking; we this day walked 19 or 20 miles.

By appointment our Pack horses were to meet us at the mouth of Stoney Creek, but we found they had been unable to Reach the place; we therfor took up our Quarters with Daniel LeVere for the night. As we were in a part of the country where none of us had ever Been we were obliged to hire a man and send off for one Clark to conduct us the nearest and best way from the Mouth of Stoney Creek to the mouth of Poplar run on the Frankstown Branch, through the Alegina mountain. We did in the evening after we had taken up our Quarters. As this messenger has to walk 18 miles to where Clark Lives, we can hardly Expect him to Return before the 28.

FRIDAY, August 27th.—Gersham Hicks came to us this morning and informed us that the horses and Baggage were coming; that they had been unable to Reach the fork Last night, the Road had been so Bad. After some time the horses came but on the way had Lost one of our Tents, for this tent two of our people were sent back who are not yet Returned. In the afternoon they Returned but could not find the tent altho they went back as far as the

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\* Bustling Johnstown, composed of an aggregation of eight municipalities stands here. When the Commissioners landed at the mouth of Stony Creek, ninety-seven years ago, in what was a dense wilderness, they doubtless never thought for a moment that in time immense iron works would be built in this wild canon, and that the roar and rattle of steam engines and passing railroad trains would awake the echoes of the mountain solitudes.



place they had Lodged the night Before; but they heard that a man and a Boy from the Jerseys had passed along the road between the time that our people returned to seek the tent, and as those people were in want of Cloathes as its said, no dout they played us a Jersey Trick.

SATURDAY, August 28th.—We continued in our camp waiting the Return of young Levoy whom we had sent for Clark. He returned after sunset and with him a Daniel Clark, the man who had been Recomendend was gon a hunting, and this man was the only person he could get to come who had any knowledge of the country through which we had to pass. This day we spent in Baking Bread and preparing for Crossing the Alegina, mendin Mokossins &c.

SUNDAY, August 29th.—Agreeable to the Resolution of the Last night we prepared this morning to survey the Conemaugh, as Mr D. Clark had refused to conduct us over the Mountains without we would Engage to pay him 10 shillings for every day that we would be from home. This we all agreed was unreasonable as he himself confessed that he was not fully acquainted with the country through which we must pass. We therefor paid for the day he had spent in coming and for another to go home in, 10 shillings, and prepared to go up through the narrows, and survey the creek, and sent our Baggage Round by a Better way with order to mett us Monday Night at the forks of Connemaugh; and as it was Expected they would be able to gain the forks much sooner than us, we set out first and proceeded up the creek as far as we could that day. Had bad walking and at night could scarcely find a spot to encamp on, for the Land which came to the waters edge for some miles together. We at length found a spot in the Laurel Large enough for us to lie on and took up our Quarters. Not long after Night rain came on and we were unprovided with any kind of shelter. This not only kept me uneasy for the moment but in pain in consequence as I was but verrey imperfectly Recovered from my former attack of the Rhumatisem, brought on in the same manner; and there I was in a country unsettled, without either canoe or horse.

MONDAY, August 30th.—Dried my Cloathes with all the care I could, and took my Bundle on my Back, and so did my companions

and we proceeded up the Creek with our survey and Gained the first forks of the Cr By  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 O'clock; there eat our Dinner and proceeded on untill night and encamped on the upper end of a Rock Bottom about two miles below the forks where the pack horses were to meet us. As we had given orders to the pack horse men in case that we Did not Reach the forks on Monday night that Hicks should be despatched down the Creek on Tuesday morning to meet us with Provisions, as we had taken only two Day(s) Provisions, we in order that they might know we were coming fired a Gun Twist after dark, but had no answer.

TUESDAY, August 31st.—After Breakfast we went on with our survey and Reached the forks  $\frac{1}{2}$  after 10 o'clock but found our people had not reached the place. We then enquired into the state of our provisions, and found that the whole we then had with us was not more than one scanty meal. We then judged it advisable to make the best speed we could to Frankstown and not wait Longer for the packhorses as we were certain either some mistake or misfortune had happened, or they would have been there before us. We accordingly set off at a N. E. course and surveyed 8 miles before Dark, but to our surprise we had not yet reached the State Road. The evening was Cloudy and we encamped by the side of a Laurel Thicket near a Small Branch of the Conemaugh.

WEDNESDAY, September 1st.—The evening before we had divided our Provisions into Equal Shares, and though we had walked the whole day, yet each man's portion when he had it was so small; and not knowing how far we must travel before we could meet with any supply, none of us ventured to eat any supper. This morning every man cooked his own Chocolate with the utmost care and attention, and in General eat with the Chocolate about one-half of our Bread; and so we set out and in about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours we came to the State Road\* about Eight miles N. W. of Blair's mill.

After Traveling about 4 miles on this Road we eat the Remain-

\*On the 29th of March, 1787, an act of Assembly was passed appointing commissioners "to lay out a State highway, between the waters of the Frankstown branch of the Juniata and the river Conemaugh." This road, which is the one referred to by Mr. Maclay, is still known as the Frankstown road. It crossed the Allegheny Mountains and reached the Conemaugh at Johnstown. April 10, 1792, the Conemaugh and its branches were declared public highways by act of the Legislature.

der of our Provisions and Reached Mr Blair's mill a Little after 12 oclock where we were Rece'd with Great kindness by Mr Blair's family, who gave us our dinner, as neither Mr Blair\* nor his wife were at home. In the Evening Mrs Blair came home; and to my surprise Soon informed me that she knew something of me and my connections. Upon enquiring she is the daughter of a Mr Sims who was a friend and acquaintance of Mr R Plunketts† in Ireland, and came to this country the same year that Mr. Plunket came to the country; and is a verrey Decent, well Breed woman, and was very oblidging and attentive to us. In the Evening we sent one of our men over to Patrick Cassidy's with a Note, Requesting him to come to us in the morning.

\*John Blair, Jr., was one of the early settlers in the territory embraced in Blair County, and after him the county was named. His home was some four miles west of Hollidaysburg, on the Huntingdon, Cambria and Indiana turnpike, formerly known as the "Northern Pike." He was in his day a man of mark and foremost in every public enterprise.—*A. K. Bell, D. D., in Egle's Hist. Pa., p. 397.*

† It is proper in this connection to clear up the history of the Plunkets. William Plunket, the first presiding justice of Northumberland County, died in the spring of 1791, at Sunbury, aged about 100 years. He was the father of Mrs. Samuel Maclay, whose lineage is traceable to John Harris, Sr., whose grave is yet to be seen on the bank of the river at Harrisburg, in front of the residence of Gen. Simon Cameron. John Harris, Sr., died in 1748. His wife, Esther Say, was a lady of rare endowments, who came from England, in the family of Judge Shippen. Among their children were John, the proprietor of Harrisburg; Samuel, who settled at the outlet of Cayuga Lake, New York, and a daughter, who married Dr. William Plunket. The latter, at the time of his marriage, resided at Carlisle, and his daughters, four in number, were born there. His wife dying early, he remained a widower, which fact gave rise to the mistake of some authors in stating that he was a bachelor. His daughters were Elizabeth, born in 1755, married to Samuel Maclay, the writer of this journal; Isabella, born January, 1760, married to William Bell, Esq., of Elizabethtown, N. J.; Margaret, married to Isaac Richardson, removed to Wayne County, N. Y., then known as the Genesee Country. Hester Plunket, the youngest, married Col. Robert Baxter, of the British army, and died about a year after her marriage. Her daughter married Dr. Samuel Maclay, of Mifflin County. John Harris' wife, Elizabeth McClure, said to have been the most lovely woman of her day, died young, from fright and grief, at the report of her husband's death, which however proved untrue. Her daughter, Mary Harris, who inherited much of her mother's beauty, married William Maclay, the first United States Senator from Pennsylvania, and brother of Samuel, the surveyor. The latter's wife, and Mrs. William Maclay, were cousins and they married brothers.

William C. Plunket, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, was a nephew of Doctor Plunket. A brother of Doctor Plunket came to this country, bringing with him

THURSDAY, September 2d.—After Breakfast Mr Cassidy came and informed us that he was unacquainted with the Ground between this and Conne-maugh further than the head of the Poplar Run, but he was of the opinion that the Poplar Run Gap was a much Better Gap than the one in which the Road is now made; and informed us that if we pleased he would Go with and Likewise procure some other person who knew the country all the way, to go with him and us in order to view the Poplar Gap, and the Ground beyond the head of the Poplar Run as far as the forks of Conne-maugh. He likewise promised to assist us in getting horses to carry our Baggage down as far as Water Street, and his assistance in Procuring us some fresh Provisions.

FRIDAY, September 3d.—After Breakfast we Rec'd a note from Mr Cassidy that he had the promise of two horses and two sheep for one of which we sent one of our people. Not until 4 o'clock this day did we hear anything from our Pack horses. Then they came in. They had mistaken the forks of Conemaugh where they were to wait for us and stopped at the first, instead of going on to the second, and by that mistake have Lost us 2 days. Some time after night our man Returned with a Mutton.

SATURDAY, September 4th.—This morning we sent off a part of our Baggage to Mr Cassidy's by a son of McCunes who brought us the mutton. Mr Adlum was this morning Employed in protracting our works from the mouth of Stoney creek. After Breakfast and after I had finished copying my note(s) I took 2 hands, and Began at the 50 mile Tree above Mr Blairs and surveyed the Road to Patrick Cassidys, and from thence to the mouth of Poplar Run, which Business was some time Delayed By the Rain, which fell this Day. Mr Adlum finished his work and

a daughter, Margaret, who married Samuel Simmons, of Pine Creek, who resided a few miles west of Jersey Shore. His name was Robert, and he is the man alluded to by Mrs. Blair. The celebrated Dr. Plunket died at Sunbury in the office afterwards owned by Ebenezer Greenough. He was totally blind during the closing years of his life. His will is dated January 3, 1791, and proved May 25, 1791, in which he mentions his granddaughter, Margaret Baxter, one of the most beautiful and accomplished ladies of the State, who died at Milroy, Mifflin County, July 6, 1863. The three sisters, Mrs. Maclay, Mrs. Ball and Mrs. Richardson, survived to a good old age, and resided together in Mifflin County. For the facts in this condensed history of the Plunkets I am indebted to *Linn's Annals of Buffalo Valley*, pages 271—2.

Joined us in the afternoon. We Likewise Got a horse from Mr Cassidy and Got another Load of our Baggage brought over this day from our camp at Mr Blair's, but Gersham Hicks with the Remainder was still Behind at the Camp.

SUNDAY, September 5th.—We Despatched Seymour with a horse this morning to Mr Blair's to bring forward Hicks and the Remainder of our Baggage; and took the necessary measures in order to Explore the Ground up through the Poplar Gap, and thence to the forks of Connemaugh. The man we sent is not yet Returned. In the mean time we had verrey differant accounts of the Ground through the Poplar Gap. Patrick Cassidy told us that he had been at the head of the Poplar run and five miles further towards the forks of Connemaugh; that so far it was Excelent Ground for a Road; much Better than the road through the other Gap, and insinuated that undue means had been exercised or the State Road would have been taken through the Poplar Gap. This Representation was Coroborated by one William Pringle who undertook to show us an Exceeding Good way for a road up through the Poplar Gap. To this a young man, a hunter, of the name of Shirley, Replyd that he knew the Poplar Gap well; that he had had a hunting camp on it near the head; that there was no place there that would admit of a Road; that if Pringle could find a Road there, then he Shirley would Give them his head for a foot ball. But he informed us that there might be a Road had to Connemaugh by Beginning at the East end of a Ridge that is south of the Poplar run and keeping that Ridge up to the Blue Knob a mountain so called in those parts, and from thence by keeping the dividing Ridge, but this way was objected to by Cassidy and others as Going quite too far out of the way. Shirley further informed us that Pringle, who was to be our Gide had some time before undertaken to conduct a Company over to Connemaugh & had Lost himself and with Difficulty found the way home. From all these circumstances, and acct taken together we were Determined to see the Ground and set out with our party and surveyed about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles up the Poplar run through Low swampy Ground Inclined to be stoney.

MONDAY, September 6th.—Continued our survey up the poplar run through stoney swampy Bottoms, much cut into Gulleys by the water for about 2 miles; then took over a hill and struck the run

again. Found the Ground much the same up to the second forks, where Pringle told us we must take the mountain which we did and found it much too steep to answer for a road. However we continued our survey untill we came in sight of a cove in the hill, I then in order to save time proposed to Leave the compass and walk up to the top of the hill in order to obtain a view of the hills around us as by this time I had abundant Testimony that we could place no Dependence upon the Information of our Gides. When we had Reached the top of the first Rise or Spur of the mountain I plainly saw that admitting the Ground to have been good to the Bottom of the hill there was no Possability of making a Road and therefore under these circumstances Gave it as my opinion that to prosecute the Bussness farther would be misspending our time and wasting the Publick Money; Cassidy still Persisted that there could be a fine Road made there, and Colonel Matlack said he had wished to have Discussed this matter among ourselves, as Commissioners and not before any other persons, and concluded with Expressing a Desire of seeing the top of the hill but added that he would not bear an imputation of wasting the publick money. I Replyd that for my own part I had seen sufficient to fix my opinion; if he or any other person had not, that an hour or two would be Sufficient for the purpose, that under these considerations I had no objections to going on to the top of the hill.

Mr Adlum Lickewise thought it best to Proceed with the survey to the top of the hill; and we proceeded accordingly but before we had gone a half a mile further we plainly saw that our Gides were utterly at a Loss, and in a short time Cassidy himself Declared that there could not be a road made there, and Longe Before we had Reached the Top of the mountain, we were all willing to return back the best way we could find through the Laurel. We got down a little below the forks of the run and took up our Quarters, heartily tired of Road hunting. Cassidy and Pringle would not stay with (us) all night, though they were invited.

TUESDAY, September 7th.—We returned to Cassidys and got there a little before 11 oclock. Were obliged to wait some time in order to procure horses to bring forward our Baggage and had to send one of our people to Mr Blair's mill to get a fresh supply of flour. This Detained Mr Adlum all night at Cassidys. After

Dinner I took two men to Carrey Chain, and began the survey of the Frankstown Branch at the mouth of Poplar run, and Proceed Down as far as Franks old town,\* When night came on, and not meeting with any of our people, Colonel Matlack and I went to Lowery's and staid all night. When I Left off surveying I had sent the chain carriers up to one Tituses to see whether any of our people had come there. On their way they met with N. St Clair who Mr Adlum had sent with our Blankets and part of the Baggage; but the night was so dark that they could not find the road to Lowerys. They therefore took up camp on the Branch.

WEDNESDAY, September 8th.—Left Lowery's after Breakfast, and came to the camp that the men had made on the Branch; where Mr Adlum had Got Before us. We were still at a Loss for the means of conveying our Baggage. Mr Adlum had hired Cassidy's Boy to bring our Baggage to Frankstown, and he agreed to take it a little further. We then proceeded with the survey; Cassidy's Boy carried our Baggage about two miles Down the Branch, where he left us to shift. We then prevailed on a Duchman to Lend us a Canoe; into which we packed our things and proceeded about 1½ miles further, and encamped. Colonel Matlack Bough(t) some motton from a Duchman to be Delivered in the morning, and was Lickwise in Treaty with the same man for a canoe.

THURSDAY, September 9th.—Réc'd the motton and Bought a canoe provided we Lieke it when we see it; and are preparing to set out again. Set of(f) and came to where the canoe was. We were oblidged to take it altho it was as ugly a one as possable. We got our Baggage on Board and Proceeded down the River;† we found the water so low that the men were oblidged to Drag nearly

\* Frankstown, Blair County, is probably the oldest place on the Juniata River, traders having mentioned it as early as 1750. The Indian town was located at the mouth of a small run, and at one time contained a considerable number of inhabitants. The Indian name was *Assunepachla*, which signifies a meeting of the waters, as several streams unite here and form the Juniata. The Indians abandoned it in 1755. The name Frankstown comes from an old German Indian trader named Stephen Franks, who lived contemporaneously with old Hart, after whom Hartslog Valley was named. Franks was a great friend of the Indians and lived and died among them, and it was after his death that one of the chiefs took his name, which caused the erroneous impression that the name was given to the town in honor of the chief.—*Jones' Juniata Valley*, pages 324-5.

† The Little Juniata.

one half of the Distance which Delayed us Exceedingly. We went on and pitched upon a camp and Kindled a fire, but the men were so Exausted with the Extream Fatigue that it was past Eight o'clock before the could reach the place, altho we had come only about 3 miles.

FRIDAY, September 10th.—We continued our survey down the River & made about 6 miles this Day; the water Low, and the Banks of the River Rocky and Bushey.

SATURDAY, September 11th.—Continued the survey of the River and with all the Exercesions we could make we only got seven miles with our survey. The walking on the river bad & the water too Low.

SUNDAY, September 12th.—Proceeded down the River with our survey. Colonel Matlack and myself walked along the shore with the surveyor(s) untill we got below the place called the Fiddle Strings. We then concluded, as there was no obstruction in the River from there to Water Street, that we would take the road, which we did accordingly and came to Water Street.\* Came down through the narrows to the house of one Brown, where we intended waiting for Mr Adlum and the canoe; but after some time we were informed by Brown that Coll'o Cannon was to start the next morning for Phila'd. We concluded to leave a note for Mr Adlum with Brown and go on to Coll Cannon's. We did so; came to Coll Cannon's; found that he was at meeting. However we found means to procure a dinner. After some time the family came home, and Expresed their Satisfaction at seeing us & treated us with kindness. We then learned that the Col'o had a Brother Lately arrived from Ireland, whose family was then near W(il)-mington; that he was going down with a Horse to assist them in coming up. Coll. Matlack determined to take this oppertunity to get on his way as far as Lancaster. Night came on and not account from Mr Adlum and our canoe party.

\*Two miles above Alexandria, Huntingdon County. Water Street is an old place and was settled prior to the Revolution. A stream of water from Canoe Mountain, supposed to be the Arch Spring, of Sinking Valley, passes down a ravine and empties into the Juniata at this place. For some distance through a narrow defile the road passed directly through the bed of this stream, a circumstance which induced the settlers to call it Water Street.—*Jones' Juniata Valley*, page 301.



MONDAY, September 13th.—Early in the Morning Mr Adlum came to us at Col'l Cannon's. He had compleated the survey yesterday at 3 oclock and came down part of the way with the canoe, but stopt to speak with a man on the road near a Bent in the River; then went on to the next Bent where the water appeared in good order for canoeing, & after Looking up and Down, and not seeing the canoe, concluded that they were ahead and went on to one Mitchells where they were to stop. When he came there they were not come nor did they come that night. He therefore Dispatched Hicks, this morning to Look for them. After Breakfast we all walked down to the river, and found they were just arrived. We then concluded as it was so Difficult to proceed with the canoe to leave her and all our Baggage, our Coats and Papers Excepted, and make the best of our way home. Col'l Matlack was Provided with a horse; and Mr Adlum and myself Determined to take part of our Baggage on our Backs and foot it home. We got all our Baggage on shore and got the things that were to be left carried up to Coll Cannon's. We packed the other things up in order, took our Back Loads and set out. Col'l Cannon was so oblidging as to accomodate us with a horse as far as Huntingdon, where we arrived at 3 oclock. We spent some time with Col'l Matlack in arranging our bussness and set off for Kishacoquillis at—\* oclock with our Baggage on our Backs; we had one half of the City to admire us, —\* they looked at us with attention. We walked 4 miles came to one Silles and took up our Quarters for the night; attempted to procure a man and horse to carry our Baggage (and have?) hopes of Success.

TUESDAY, September 14th.—Though we had hopes last night of procuring a packhorse, yet when the morning came, the man would not go; we therefor took up our loads and set off; traveled 6 miles to the Improvement of a Duchman, who for half a dollar agreed to carry our things into Kishicoquillis valley. Agreed with him, put the Baggage into a horse Load, fixed it on and made the best of our way. Came into the valley to James Logan's† who with one

\*Torn off.

†This beautiful valley was named after Kishicoquillas, an old Indian chief who had his cabin there at an early day. Logan, the celebrated Mingo chief, afterwards dwelt in the valley. But the Logan alluded to by Mr. Maclay could hardly be the famous son of Shikellamy. Mr. Maclay did much surveying in the valley, and afterwards some of his descendants lived and died there.

—\* horses carried our things to John Wilson, who carried them to Robert McLain; where we all arrived a little after.

WEDNESDAY, September 15th.—Agreed with Robert McLain for a horse and boy pr Day to carry us to Buffaloe and set off in the —\* Mr Adlum and myself stopped this day at Mr —\*, and sent the men with the horse forward.

THURSDAY, September 16th.—Set out from —\* in the morning and about 4 oclock overtook —\* with the Baggage. Traveled about 3 miles further to —\* newcomers in Mussers Valley and put up for the night.

FRIDAY, September 17th.—Set off in the morning; walked very (constantly?) untill one oclock, when I reached home. Found my family all well and at Dinner. Our men came about 2 hours afterwards.

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### REPORTS ON THE SURVEY.

In 1789 the "Society for Promoting the Improvement of Road and Inland Navigation" was formed, and had in a short time one hundred members residing in various parts of the State. Surveys of the Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Juniata and other streams were authorized, with the view of ascertaining the cost of the proposed water ways to connect with the lakes, to bring the trade to Philadelphia. In 1791 the Society, through Robert Morris, submitted a report and memorial to the Legislature, giving a comprehensive view of the various routes for canals and roads, with estimates of the expense. It may be curious to compare their ideas and views, and estimates, with those entertained at the present day, so far as the same routes have been pursued. Extracts from the report of Maclay, Adlum and Matlack are given herewith:

Susquehanna navigation, as connected with the Schuylkill on the east, and Ohio and the great lakes on the west. From Philadelphia to Pittsburg:

	Miles. Chs.	
Up Schuylkill to the mouth of the Tulpehocken.....	61	00
Up Tulpehocken to the end of the proposed canal.....	37	09
Length of the canal.....	4	15
Down Quitapahilla to Swatara.....	15	20

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\* Torn off.

	Miles.	Chs.
Down Swatara to Susquehanna.....	23	00
Up Susquehanna to Juniata.....	23	28
Up Juniata to Huntingdon.....	86	12
From Huntingdon, on Juniata, to mouth of Poplar Run.....	42	00
Portage to the Canoe Place on Conemaugh.....	18	00
Down Conemaugh to Old Town at the mouth of Stoney Creek.....	18	00
Down Conemaugh and Kishkiminetas to Allegheny River.....	69	00
Down Allegheny River to Pittsburg on the Ohio.....	29	00
Total .....	425	84

## ESTIMATE OF THE EXPENSE.

Schuylkill from the tide water to Reading, by David Rittenhouse and others.....	£ 1,147	00
By Benjamin Rittenhouse and John Adlum.....	1,519	13
Clearing the Tulpehocken by do.....	1,419	90
The canal from Tulpehocken to Quitapahilla, 20 feet wide and 7 feet on an average.*.....		
The Quitapahilla and Swatara ..	18,900	00
Susquehanna from Swatara to Juniata.....	300	00
The Juniata to Frank's Town.....	2,320	00
Canal or lock navigation to Poplar Run (if found necessary, which will probably not be the case).....	7,000	00
Portage of 18 miles to Conemaugh at £20 per mile.....	360	00
Conemaugh and Kishkiminetas to Allegheny.....	7,150	00

In order to reach Presque Isle by the Juniata, Conemaugh, Allegheny and French Creek route the following estimate was submitted:

	Miles.	Chs.
To the mouth of Kishkiminetas, by the same route as above.....	397	04
Up the Allegheny to French Creek.....	83	43
Up French Creek to Le Bœuf.....	65	40
Portage from Le Bœuf to Presque Isle.....	15	40
Total .....	561	27

The sum of £500 for French Creek, and £400 for the Portage, is all the additional expense in the navigation from Kishkiminetas to Presque Isle or the lakes.

## FROM PHILADELPHIA BY WEST BRANCH.

From Philadelphia to Presque Isle by the West Branch of the Susquehanna, Sinnemahoning and Conewango:

	Miles.	Chs.
From Philadelphia to Swatara as above.....	140	44
Up Susquehanna to the West Branch, at Sunbury.....	65	00
Up the West Branch to the mouth of Sinnemahoning.....	106	00
Up Sinnemahoning to the Forks.....	15	20

\* Here the Society left a blank.

	Miles.	Chs.
Up the North Branch of Sinnemahoning.....	19	40
By the Portage to the head of Allegheny River.....	23	00
Down Allegheny River (partly through New York State) to the mouth of Conewango.....	76	00
Up Conewango to New York line 11 miles—thence up the same through the State of New York 17 miles to Chautauqua Lake.....	28	00
Across Chautauqua Lake to its head.....	17	00
Portage to Lake Erie at the mouth of Chautauqua Creek.....	9	20
Along Lake Erie to Presque Isle.....	25	00
Total .....	524	44

Another route to the lake is also given as follows:

	Miles.	Chs.
From Philadelphia to the Forks of Sinnemahoning, as before.....	326	64
Up the West Branch of Sinnemahoning.....	24	00
Portage to Little Toby's Creek.....	14	00
Down Little Toby's Creek to the main branch.....	10	00
Down the main branch of Little Toby's Creek to the Allegheny.....	70	00
Up the Allegheny to French Creek.....	35	00
Up French Creek and the Portage to Presque Isle.....	81	00
Total .....	560	64

No estimate of costs accompanies these routes.

## ROSWELL FRANKLIN.

BY REV. J. N. HUBBARD.

ROSWELL FRANKLIN was one of the early pioneers of the Valley of Wyoming. He, with others, from Connecticut, came when the title to the land was in dispute between parties whose claims seemed to be very nearly, if not quite, identical.

Connecticut claimed this section of country under a charter given by James I. to the Plymouth Company in 1620; this included lands west of New Jersey, between certain parallels running westward to the ocean. The Valley of Wyoming, being within these limits, was regarded as hers.

Pennsylvania claimed this same land under a grant subsequently given by Charles II. to William Penn, in 1681.

To strengthen these claims each bought likewise of the Indians, who doubtless received little enough, though they sold the land twice. Still further support was claimed, by each, from legal decisions obtained in England.

Those who came from Connecticut here to form a settlement, had undoubted faith in the validity of the title held by their State.

The Pennsylvanians likewise had full confidence in their own title, and were resolved to maintain their right to the possession of this valley. Angry feelings were aroused, bitter words passed and blows were given, and finally there was a resort to arms; and one party overcame and dispossessed the other by turns, until the Revolutionary war began to absorb every other interest, and lay a supreme demand upon the patriotism of all in every State.

Mr. Franklin first came here in the spring of 1770. The extent and beauty of the valley must have awakened his admiration, for after viewing the land, he decided upon settling here. He may not have known the difficulties he would have to encounter, or the strong determination of the Pennsylvanians to break up the settlement already commenced. Yet he had an inkling of this on his way toward home. He with others stopped for the night on the Jersey side of the Delaware River, and while there were surprised and captured by a party of Pennsylvanians, who took them across the river and lodged them in jail at Easton.

They were not aware of having committed any crime, yet this evinced the strong feeling existing at the time, and the deep determination to prevent any settlement here, other than under the authority of their own State.

Mr. Franklin and his comrades were not unkindly treated, but were provided at first with a variety of food and in sufficient quantity. But when it was rumored that their friends intended to come and rescue them, a change was made, and they were fed simply on bread and water. The precaution was taken also of bringing into the jail twenty-five muskets, and a supply of ammunition, and men were engaged to be in readiness to assist the jailor in case of an attempt at rescue.

These Yankees, however, were not altogether suited with their board, and had little fancy for close confinement, and it is not strange they should entertain the idea of not stopping here very long.

But they were carefully guarded, occupying the second story of the jail, and were well secured by bolts and iron bars. Twice a day they were taken down stairs, and allowed to walk in the back

yard, four only going at a time. It occurred to them they might devise some plan of escape at one of these seasons, when they were having a little airing.

Yet this would require them to act in broad daylight, when an alarm might summon the people to prevent their escape, and oblige them to fight their way through. Still they were determined to make the attempt, though at the risk of life.

To forward their design, one of the prisoners feigned sickness and was taken below for medical treatment. His object was to find where the front door key was kept, as this would give them the easiest and most direct way out. He found that instead of putting it in one, they had different places for it. This knowledge gained, his recovery was rapid, and he was soon taken up stairs again to his companions.

Further consultation resulted in fixing on a day, near at hand, when their contemplated effort to escape would be made. Mr. Franklin was chosen as their leader, and they agreed to follow his directions.

On the day appointed four of them were let down, at an earlier hour than usual. Two or three men came in to help the jailor about something. One of them was a blacksmith, and brought his hammer, and laid it on the window sill. They then went into the yard where the prisoners were usually allowed to go, and his wife came with her knitting, and sat down in the door.

Franklin had previously directed his three companions to keep near to each other, watch his movements, and be ready for action at any moment. He then stepped up to the jailor, who was a well disposed man, laid his hand familiarly on his shoulder and said, "Though I have been shut up here so close, and fed on such weak stuff as bread and water, I'll bet a trifle, after all, that I can beat you at hopping."

He then made a mark near the door, and hopped as far as he could at three hops. Then came the jailor's turn. "Stop," said the other, "till I come back and see that you start fair." As soon as the jailor commenced his hop, Franklin jumped to the door, gave it a violent swing, sweeping the woman with her knitting into the yard, and immediately turned the key that was in the door, thus for a time imprisoning the wife, her husband and the two or three attendants.

The next thing was to liberate the other prisoners. He seized the blacksmith's hammer in the window, ran up stairs and with heavy blows broke the locks and liberated the men. Having succeeded in this, they had still to hunt for the key to the front door. It was found in a drawer, which they broke open.

While these movements were going on, the jailor and others in the yard were crying at the top of their voices, "murder! murder!" and the people began to come together in crowds before the jail, in the street. But the prisoners armed themselves with the guns that had been brought into the jail to prevent a rescue, and Franklin directed his men to form in line right after him, and be prepared to fire, if the circumstances should require it.

The door was opened; a crowd of citizens was before it. Happily, in their haste, they had come unarmed. The order was given to seize hold of the prisoners. But seeing that these men were resolute, and well armed, there was a hesitation to obey. The prisoners moved forward. One man stepped out as if to arrest the leader, Franklin. It was a critical moment, but he did not hesitate; pointing his gun, he said to him: "*Sir, it is a case of life or death; if you lay a hand on me you are a dead man!*" The man drew back, the crowd opened, and in solid column the men marched through, none attempting to molest them; not a hand was raised, nor another word spoken, and while deep silence reigned, this little band of heroic men passed out to a point where they considered themselves safe.

But there is a wide difference between the ability to act with courage on a given occasion and the disposition to use wisely the advantages thus gained. These men, after passing beyond the bounds of the village and where they could not be seen by their enemies, seemed to be intoxicated with the idea of their release from prison, and regarded themselves now as free from all danger. "No," said Mr. Franklin, "we are not out of danger, and will not be until we are beyond the reach of our enemies."

He endeavored to impress upon them the necessity of keeping together, of being constantly on their guard, with loaded guns, and that by marching thus in a body they might soon reach a point of safety. They were not disposed, however, to regard his counsel, and exulting in their freedom, spurned the idea of danger. That

was all over, and they could now take care of themselves. Mr. Franklin, perceiving that further expostulation was useless, handed his gun to one of the men, saying they might take their own way and he would his, hoping they might come out all right, but as for himself he would rather take the risk of going alone. So he left them, and it turned out very much as he anticipated; after a few days they were all retaken, and put back in the jail again.

Mr. Franklin sought a place of concealment, where he rested till dark. He arose, cut a good-sized hickory that would serve as a staff to support, or as a club to fight with, if occasion required, and passed directly through Easton to the Delaware River, where he found a canoe and paddled across into the State of New Jersey. Darkness, silence and loneliness reigned around him. He heard nothing save the low murmuring of the river. He wandered on, uncertain as to his course, but fearing to remain where he was. Morning at length came. He found he was still in the vicinity of Easton, for he could hear the drums beat, to call the people to arms. Hungry, wet, without a coat to shield him from the cold, weakened from insufficient food, the heavy mental strain that had been upon him, and the great physical exertion he had sustained, he regarded his life as of little worth, and had not the thought of wife and children and home reached some latent springs of remaining strength, he would have felt indifferent as to what was before him, whether life or death. Thinking he might as well die in one way as another, he ventured to call at a house that was near, not knowing whether he would find friends or foes.

He accosted the man of the house in a way to ascertain, if he could, how he felt towards the Connecticut men that were trying to found a colony in the Valley of Wyoming. So far as he could judge, the man appeared to be friendly, and he frankly told him all that related to his present condition and wants; how he had escaped from the jail, and his desire to reach his home and friends without being betrayed or placed again in the hands of his enemies.

He was kindly received, assured of protection, supplied with refreshments and a place of rest, where he passed a few hours in refreshing sleep.

His kind host advised him as to the best course to reach his home, and, with heartfelt expressions of gratitude, he departed,



and in due time safely reached his home in Woodbury, Litchfield County, Connecticut.

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### THE COUNTY OF MCKEAN.

THE last number of that excellent monthly, the *Petroleum Age*, published at Bradford, contained an article on the early history of McKean County, and the founding of Bradford, which is worthy of being reproduced in THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL. It says:

The county of McKean was formed from that of Lycoming, by act of the Legislature, March 26, 1804. Its original area was 1,442 square miles. It parted with a portion of its territory when Elk County was formed in 1843, and another portion was taken from it for Cameron County in 1860. It now contains about 1,000 square miles, or 640,000 acres.

The northwestern portion of this State was owned and occupied by the warlike Seneca Indians, and was ceded by them to the Government in the treaty made by the Six Nations at Fort Stanwix, N. Y., October 23, 1784. By this treaty the Indians surrendered all their claims to lands in the State of Pennsylvania, except a small area on the banks of the Allegheny River, twelve miles north of Kinzua village, which was reserved to Cornplanter, the well-known Seneca chieftain. Here he settled about 1790 and resided until his death in 1836.

McKean County was named in honor of Thomas McKean, who for nine years was Governor of the State. At its formation it, together with the county of Clearfield, was placed under the jurisdiction of Centre County, and its records were kept at Bellefonte. In August, 1804, McKean was erected into a township called Ceres by the quarter sessions of Centre County. Roads were laid out by the court in 1806, and in 1810 Sargeant Township was formed.

The county early began to attract the attention of land speculators, and McKean's wooded acres were parcelled out in immense tracts to ambitious lumber companies soon after the formation of the county. The first settlements were made along the Allegheny River, and the first settler was Francis King, the agent of the Keating Land Company, who brought a company of workmen and

founded King's Settlement, now the village of Ceres, in the spring of 1798.

The valley of the Tuna failed to attract the attention of the early settlers until 1826, when Joshua Barnes and Barnabas Pike built a flutter wheel saw mill at State Line. The United States Land Company secured 250,000 acres in the county, and in December, 1837, Colonel Levitt C. Little, of New Hampshire, settled on the present site of the city of Bradford. The little village that sprang up under the Colonel's management of the lumber business was named Littleton, in honor of its founder. The first log house was built close to the banks of the creek, at about the point where the old lockup now stands. Colonel Little built a more pretentious house on the spot which the Berry block now occupies. The pine shingles with which the Colonel's roof was covered were made from the big trees that grew in close proximity to the new house. Under the energetic management of Colonel Little, the village was mapped out into streets, much as they are at present. The first plan of Littleton was drawn by Calvin Leech, a Boston engineer, in 1838. C. D. Webster made another plot of the village in 1840, which shows that provision had been made for a meeting house, a school house, a public park and a system of water works. The meeting house was to be located at the head of Main street, where the St. James Hotel now stands. Main street was likewise known as the Smethport road, while Mechanic street was called for a short distance Mechanic's Row; its extension southward, the Warren road; the northward route across the bridge was called the Olean road. Congress street was a lane that connected Main street with the Corydon road, as Corydon street was then called. The creek had not yet had its harsh-sounding Indian name of Tunangaunt shortened to the more elegant and smooth-flowing Tuna.

Littleton prospered slowly in the manner of primitive lumber towns. Its name was changed to Bradford, and in 1850 a weekly newspaper made its appearance. The railroad came, and lastly, in 1875, the amazing news ran through the Tuna Valley that Crocker had "struck oil" at Tarport. The excitement grew with the incoming of the oil men, and the transformation from old to modern Bradford was still most wonderful of all.

## SULLIVAN COUNTY'S FIRST PAPER.

THE *Sullivan Review*, published at Dushore, states that Christian Mosier, of Colley, recently brought to the office a copy of the first issue of the *Sullivan Eagle*, which was the first paper ever published in Sullivan County. The copy is dated March 22, 1850, and was issued from an office on the Turnpike, near where B. M. Sylvara now resides, in Dushore. The names of William Lawrence, Jacob Hoffa and John Battin appear as County Commissioners, and those of Richard M. Taylor, Thomas King and Cornelius Cronin as County Auditors; James Taylor and George Edkin are mentioned as County Treasurers. A. J. Dietrick was clerk for the Commissioners, Henry Metcalf, Mercantile Appraiser, and E. H. Phillips, Sheriff. Among the collectors of county taxes we notice the following names: John W. Martin, Cherry; Daniel Little, Francis Edkin, Shrewsbury; William Rogers, Plunket's Creek, now western portion of the county; William Smith, Davidson. The mercantile business in the county was then represented by the following firms: Ralph Carpenter, C. Cronin, Josiah Jackson & Sons, Arthur Robinson, Isaac Lippincott & Sons, and Alonzo Potter. There were three distilleries in Cherry Township at that time. The paper is neatly printed and shows much labor. In comparison with county papers of to-day a great dearth of local news is noticed, as there is scarcely an item of home news in the paper. The professional cards of J. McKinney Heacock, physician and surgeon, and those of A. J. Dietrick and Henry Metcalf, attorneys, appear. The advertisements are very few in number—we notice the following: Theophilus Schuck, marble yard, Philadelphia; Franklin Fire Insurance Co., Philadelphia; H. Clark, window blinds, same city. Sullivan and Columbia Counties at that time formed a single Legislative district. The paper was issued every two weeks, subscription price, 75 cents per annum. There is nothing to indicate who were the editors or proprietors, but we are informed that it was published by Messrs. Metcalf, Dietrick & Heacock. The venture was not a success financially, and the paper was discontinued, after an existence of less than six months. The county was then without a paper until some two years afterward, when the *Sullivan County Democrat* was established by the late Michael Meylert.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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JOHN F. MEGINNESS, *Editor and Publisher*,  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

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WILLIAMSPORT, NOVEMBER, 1887.

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MUCH trouble has been experienced in tracing the history of John Adlum, one of the Commissioners associated with Samuel Maclay and Timothy Matlack in making the survey of the West Branch, Sinnemahoning and Allegheny rivers in 1790, but we are pleased to announce that the problem concerning the date of his birth and death has been solved. His only surviving daughter, Mrs. M. C. Barber, of Georgetown, D. C., has been traced, and she reports that her father was born at York, Pa., April 29, 1759, and died at "The Vineyard," near Georgetown, March 1, 1836, in the 77th year of his age. At the age of 54 he married his cousin, Miss Margaret Adlum, daughter of John Adlum, of Frederick, Md. They had two children, Margaret C., now Mrs. Barber, and Anna Maria, afterwards Mrs. H. H. Dent. Their father was a soldier of the Revolution, a Major in the Provisional Army during the administration of the elder Adams, and afterwards a Brigadier General in the militia of Pennsylvania. He was acquainted with Dr. Joseph Priestly, of Northumberland, the eminent chemist and discoverer of oxygen, and took a deep interest in his philosophical studies. THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL hopes to be able, in some future number, to present a complete biographical sketch of General Adlum.

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A PHILADELPHIA magazine, published in 1817, had the following paragraph relative to the freight by wagon over the Allegheny Mountains: "In the course of twelve months of 1817 12,000

wagons passed the Allegheny Mountains from Philadelphia and Baltimore, each with from four to six horses, carrying from thirty-five to forty hundred weight. The cost of carriage was about \$7 per hundred weight, but sometimes as high as \$10 from Philadelphia. The aggregate sum paid for freight exceeded \$1,500,000." At the present time, remarks a contemporary, the Pennsylvania Railroad carries, perhaps, as much freight in a single day to and from Pittsburg as was then carried during the entire year. It cost then not less than \$140 to move a ton of freight between Philadelphia and Pittsburg, a distance of 385 miles. According to the report of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1886 the cost of transporting a ton of freight between the two places was \$2.87; the cost of transporting a barrel of flour in 1817 was \$14, while in 1886 it was only 28 cents. Then every hundred pounds of dry goods cost seven dollars to move between the two cities, while at the present time the price is fourteen cents, or only one-fiftieth of the former sum. Who will say the world has not been progressing during the past half century?

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A RECENT number of the Dushore (Sullivan County) *Gazette* gives this curious bit of history: "M. Dupetit-Thouras, called by Americans 'The Admiral,' was wrecked on a voyage in search of the lost navigator, LaPerouse. He was brave and genial. He visited the French colony at Asylum, in Bradford County, and procured a grant of 400 acres of land in the wilderness, and, though he had lost an arm in the service, he began a clearing and built a house. He was killed at the battle of the Nile. A part of his clearing was in this borough and the name is in his honor, being an attempt to anglicize his name. The date of the settlement we have been unable to learn."

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LOUIS M. NEIFFER, who lives at Lykens, Dauphin County, is the owner of a watch which was made in 1755. It was the property of his grandfather, who was a soldier under Napoleon and fought in the battle of Waterloo. The watch was carried by the elder Neiffer during that battle and has since been handed down from generation to generation. It keeps good time and is valued very highly by its owner. Such relics are rare.

## NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

DR. THOMAS LYON now takes rank as the oldest physician in active practice in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He is a son of Edward Grundy Lyon and Sarah Lyon, of English birth, and was born October 13, 1812, near the borough of Muncy, Lycoming County, Pa. He received his education at the celebrated Milton Academy when the distinguished Rev. Dr. Kirkpatrick was the principal. He studied medicine under the famous Dr. James S. Dougal, of Milton, and graduated at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in 1838. When he located in Williamsport it had less than one thousand inhabitants, and he has followed his profession without interruption down to the present day. Dr. Lyon has made surgery a specialty, though his practice is general. He is a member of the Williamsport Medical Society, of the Lycoming County Medical Society, of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He has been president of the city and county associations and vice-president of the State Medical Society. During the war he was a member of the medical board of examiners for army surgeons. His contributions to medical literature have been published in the transactions of the State Medical Society. In 1843 he married Elizabeth R., daughter of Joseph R. Priestly, Esq., of Northumberland, and great-granddaughter of Dr. Joseph Priestly, the eminent chemist and discoverer of oxygen. Dr. Lyon, although in the fiftieth year of active practice, is still hale and vigorous and gives promise of many more years of service.

AMONG the many eminent lawyers of Northern Pennsylvania, none have achieved higher distinction at the bar than Joshua Wright Comly, Esq., of Danville. He was born in Philadelphia, November 16, 1810. His father and mother removed to Milton in 1820, where the former died, January 9, 1840, and the latter March 4, 1879. The Comly tomb, in the new cemetery, overlooks the Susquehanna River. They had eight children, six of whom reached maturity, but all are now dead except the subject of this sketch. Joshua W. was reared in the Quaker faith. He attended the Academy of the celebrated Rev. David Kirkpatrick, at Milton, and graduated at Princeton College. In 1827 he commenced the

study of law with Samuel Hepburn, Esq., at Milton, and was admitted to the bar November 17, 1830, when he was twenty years and one day old. He located at Orwigsburg, February, 1831. In 1833 he was admitted to the Supreme Court and at once entered upon an active and extensive practice. Mr. Comly located at Danville in the fall of 1834, and has continued to reside there up to the present time. In 1851 he was the Whig candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court, but was defeated. He retired from active practice in 1882, on account of impaired hearing and the infirmities of age. His practice was large, not only in Northumberland, but in all the adjoining counties, and he was frequently called to neighboring states to take part in great lawsuits. His knowledge of law was profound and his fame extended far and wide. He now spends most of his time reading literary works and in reviewing the classics. And, although almost 77 years of age, his mind is clear and vigorous, and were it not for his hardness of hearing he would be one of the most entertaining of men to converse with. He is cheerful, social, and a delightful companion.

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### RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

AMOS ELLMAKER KAPP, who died at his home near the borough of Northumberland on the evening of September 22d, 1887, was born in Harrisburg, August 27th, 1809, and was 78 years, one month and five days old. He located at Northumberland January 1, 1833, as stage agent for Calder & Wilson, and afterwards became associated with them as a stage proprietor. He was identified with the stage coaching business to a large extent, afterwards with the canal packets, and lastly with the Northern Central Railroad. He was probably the last typical representative of the stage coaching days in this part of the State, and he possessed a fund of information relating to that period that was as valuable as it was interesting. Mr. Kapp was a man of remarkable activity for one of his age. He took great pleasure in riding horseback, and sat upon his steed with the ease and dignity which only an experienced horseman could command. He walked to town from his home, the distance of a mile, with a rapid and steady step, which was envied by many men of not more than half his years; this walk was made

sometimes two or three times a day. The week previous to his death he attended the Constitutional Centennial and State Fair, at Philadelphia. When he returned home he was very much exhausted and soon commenced feeling unwell. After an illness of five days, which partook of a typhoid nature, he quietly passed away. He married Miss Margaret Withington, of Northumberland, who died several years ago. They had ten children, eight of whom are living.

Mr. Kapp had occupied positions of honor and trust, and had been prominently associated in many responsible projects. He enjoyed an extended acquaintance with all the prominent and distinguished men of the day. One remarkable feature of his history was that he had witnessed the induction of seventeen Governors of Pennsylvania into office. Their names and the years they served are as follows:

William Findlay, 1817 to 1820.

Joseph Heister, 1820 to 1823.

John Andrew Shulze, 1823 to 1829, two terms.

George Wolf, 1829 to 1835, two terms.

Joseph Ritner, 1835 to 1839.

David R. Porter, 1839 to 1845, two terms.

Francis R. Shunk, 1845 to 1848.

William F. Johnston, 1848 to 1852.

William Bigler, 1852 to 1855.

James Pollock, 1855 to 1858.

William F. Packer, 1858 to 1861.

Andrew G. Curtin, 1861 to 1867, two terms.

John W. Geary, 1867 to 1873, two terms.

John F. Hartranft, 1873 to 1879, two terms.

Henry W. Hoyt, 1879 to 1883.

Robert E. Pattison, 1883 to 1887.

James A. Beaver, 1887.

It is doubtful if there is any one living who witnessed as many gubernatorial inaugurations. Mr. Kapp was a man of great hospitality and was naturally very social in his disposition, these characteristics gathering around him many warm and admiring friends.

IN the death of David Heinley, Kelly Township, Union County, has lost its oldest resident. He died on the 26th of September, 1887, aged 94 years, 6 months and 16 days. Mr. Heinley was born in Windsor Township, Berks County, March 10th, 1793. In the fall of 1798 he moved to Union Township (now Union County), with his parents, and in May, 1799, they located near Vicksburg. In 1821 he settled near Farmersville, and in 1843 he moved to the house in which he died, a short distance north of Lewisburg.



## TOMBSTONE RECORD.

There is no more interesting cemetery to visit in this part of the State than the one at Sunbury. For a long time Shamokin, as Sunbury was once called, was an outpost of civilization. Hundreds of the pioneers and early settlers were laid to rest in this cemetery. A few inscriptions from tombstones are given herewith:

Sacred  
to the memory of  
JOHN BALDY,  
Born  
Aug. 9th 1783  
Died  
June 22, 1827.

Sacred  
to the memory of  
ELIZABETH G. BALDY  
Born  
Dec. 28, 1795  
Died  
Feb. 25, 1850

Mr. Baldy was not quite 44 years of age, but his wife was in her 56th year when she died.

EBENEZER GREENOUGH.  
For many years an Honorable  
Counsellor and Distinguished  
Member of the Bar.  
Born December 11, 1783  
Died December 25, 1847

SAMUEL AWL.  
Born March 5, 1773  
died January 1, 1842  
Aged 68 y, 9 mo  
& 26 days

Mrs  
MARY M. AWL  
born  
March 19th  
1776  
died August 13th  
1823

Samuel Awl was born in Paxtang Township, then Lancaster

County, and died in Augusta Township, Northumberland County. Mary Maclay, his wife, whom he married April 27, 1795, was a daughter of Hon. William Maclay and Mary McClure Harris, daughter of John Harris, the founder of Harrisburg, and Elizabeth McClure, his wife, born April 13, 1750, at Harris' Ferry. Mr. Maclay, her father, was the first United States Senator from Pennsylvania. Samuel Awl and wife were the parents of Dr. Robert Harris Awl, now one of the oldest practicing physicians in Sunbury. Senator Maclay was his maternal grandfather.

On the right of the grave of Samuel Awl lies a small slab bearing this inscription :

WILLIAM MACLAY  
Who departed this life  
May the 12th  
1786  
Aged 77 Days.

This infant was the offspring of William and Mary Maclay, and was their eighth child. The ninth, also named William, was born May 5, 1787, and died March 22, 1813, at Harrisburg.

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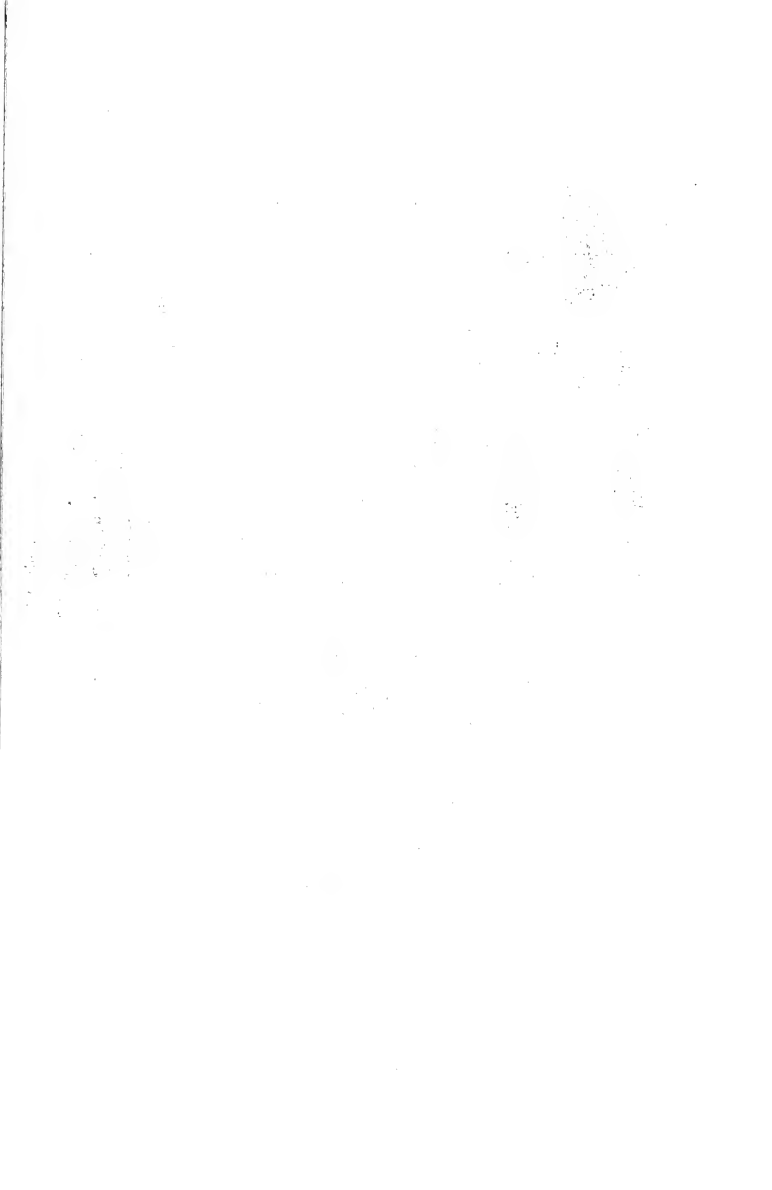
DR. R. H. AWL, of Sunbury, has in his possession a book that once belonged to Dr. William Plunket, who was the first physician in that place. The title page, which is elaborate, starts off as follows: "Synopsis Medicenæ, or a Summary View of the Whole Practice of Physic, &c." The book was published in London in 1747, strongly bound in leather, contains 400 pages, and is still in good condition. On the fly leaves are a prescription and memorandums written in Dr. Plunket's own hand. The Doctor died over one hundred years ago and was buried in the cemetery at Sunbury.

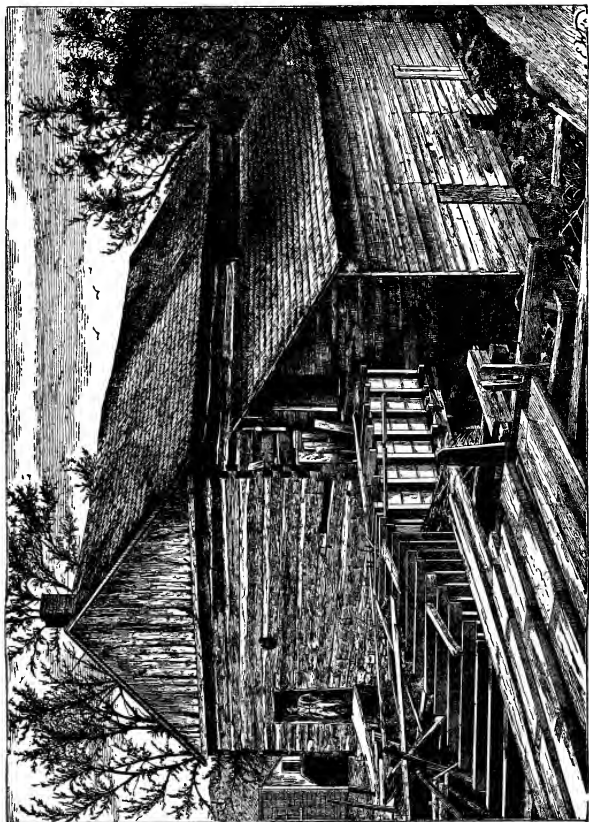
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THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL now enters on the last half of the first volume. Its success has been greater than was expected, but it should have a larger circulation than it has. Back numbers can still be supplied, but when the present edition is exhausted the work will be out of print. Persons wishing this volume complete are advised to send in their subscriptions without further delay.

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Two copies of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL already go to subscribers in England.





Ludwig Derr's Mill, Lewisburg, 1772.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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Vol. 1.                      DECEMBER, 1887.                      No. 8.

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## HUNTINGDON'S CENTENNIAL.

1787-1887.

THE people of Huntingdon celebrated the first centennial anniversary of the organization of the county on the 20th, 21st, 22d and 23d of September, 1887, in an appropriate manner. There was a large attendance, including the Governor of the Commonwealth, James A. Beaver, and many other distinguished persons. The ceremonies consisted of parades, a balloon ascension and orations. The historical address was delivered by Hon. J. Simpson Africa on the 20th, and it is given in full herewith:

### HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

We are permitted by the favor of Divine Providence to assemble on this occasion and celebrate with fitting ceremonials an event in which we all have a common interest—the rounding out of the first, and the auspicious beginning of the second century of the corporate existence of the county of Huntingdon.\*

After the arrival of William Penn in 1682, his infant province of

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\*The town of Huntingdon is situated on the north bank of the Juniata, at the mouth of Standing Stone Creek, 202½ miles west of Philadelphia. The Pennsylvania Railroad passes through the borough, and it is the northern terminus of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad. Huntingdon was settled as early as 1754, and was first known as Standing Stone. It was not regularly laid out as a town until 1767, when Rev. Dr. William Smith, the proprietor at that time and for many years thereafter provost of the University of Pennsylvania, called the town Huntingdon, in honor of Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, in England, a lady of remarkable liberality and piety, who, at the solicitation of Dr. Smith, had made a handsome donation to the funds of the University.

Pennsylvania was divided into three counties, Chester, Philadelphia and Bucks. Chester included the southern and western parts of the province and from it Lancaster was erected, May 10th, 1729. Cumberland, created by an act of Assembly passed on the 27th day of January, 1750, took from Lancaster all its territory west of the Susquehanna. Out of this extensive area more than thirty counties were afterward formed, and this parting out of territory gave rise to the sobriquet oft quoted in former times, but now almost obsolete, of "Old Mother Cumberland." While this wide region yet remained under the jurisdiction of the authorities of the county of Cumberland, the purchases of land by the Proprietaries from the Indians on the 6th day of July, 1754, and the 5th day of November, 1768, were made and the tide of immigration streamed into the valley of the Juniata, swelled through the passes of the Alleghenies, and spread over the fertile lands on the waters of the Ohio. Bedford County, formed by the act of March 9th, 1771, curtailed Cumberland's western limits by taking off a slice larger in area than some of the Colonies. Huntingdon, whose formation we now celebrate, was erected from Bedford by the act of the 20th day of September, 1787, and it then included all of the present county, three-fourths of Blair, half of Cambria, all of Clearfield southeast of the West Branch of the Susquehanna, a part of Centre, and a small portion of Mifflin. Four county-towns, to wit: Huntingdon, Hollidaysburg, Ebensburg and Clearfield, are within the limits fixed by the act of 1787. Worthy representatives from all of these counties are with us to-day to do honor to Mother Huntingdon on the completion of her one hundredth year.

#### FORMATION OF TOWNSHIPS.

The first division into townships of the territory comprised within the county of Huntingdon was made by the Cumberland County Court. Ayr and Lack, formed in 1761 or earlier, included the sparse settlements made in the southern end of the county. At July sessions, 1767, Derry was created and included Kishacoquillas Valley, which, at January sessions, 1770, was erected into the township of Armagh. A portion of Armagh was cut off in the formation of Bedford County. It became a part of Barree and is now included in Brady. At October sessions, 1767, Dublin and Barree were made. The former was bounded on the west by Side-

ling Hill and the latter included the residue of the county. The Bedford Court, at July sessions, 1773, formed Hopewell out of all that part of Barree lying upon the waters of the Raystown branch of the Juniata. Frankstown received existence at April sessions, 1775. It imbraced all of Blair County, the townships of Morris, Franklin and Warrior's Mark of this county, and a large area now in Cambria, Clearfield and Centre counties. The court records do not contain the date of the formation of the boundaries of Huntingdon, Shirley and Tyrone, but there are evidences of the fact that Huntingdon, taken from Barree, and Shirley from Dublin, were erected about the close of 1779, and Tyrone, taken from Frankstown, during the early part of 1787. At the time of the formation of the county, its present area was embraced in six of the townships named, to wit: Barree, Dublin, Hopewell, Huntingdon, Shirley and Tyrone, and at that date there were three election districts, one consisting of the townships of Barree, Hopewell and Huntingdon, with a polling place at the town of Huntingdon; another including Dublin and Shirley, the inhabitants of which voted at the house of George Cluggage, in Black Log Valley; and another embracing Tyrone and Frankstown, with a voting place at the house of David Lowrey. Out of these six townships new ones have since been created by the Court of Quarter Sessions as follows:

Franklin, from Tyrone, at March sessions, 1789; named in honor of Benjamin Franklin, late president of the Supreme Executive Council.

Springfield, from Shirley, at December sessions, 1790.

Union, from Hopewell, June sessions, 1791.

Morris, from Tyrone, August sessions, 1794; named for Robert Morris, the financier of the Colonies in their struggle for independence.

West, from Barree, April sessions, 1796; so named by reason of its including the "West" end of Barree.

Warrior's Mark, from Franklin, January sessions, 1798; so named because of localities known to the settlers as the "Warrior's Marks."

Tell, from Dublin, April sessions, 1810; so named by the court "for the memory of William Tell, the patriot of Switzerland."

Porter, from Huntingdon, November sessions, 1814; named in honor of General Andrew Porter, late Surveyor General, an officer of the Revolution and father of our former distinguished fellow-citizen, David R. Porter, Governor of the Commonwealth.

Henderson, also from Huntingdon, November sessions, 1814; named after General Andrew Henderson, an officer in the Revolutionary war and a prominent, active and useful citizen.

Walker, from Porter, April sessions, 1827; was so called for Jonathan Walker, former President Judge of the district.

Cromwell, from Shirley and Springfield, January sessions, 1836; named "in honor of Colonel Thomas Cromwell, deceased, who was an early settler and a distinguished and hospitable citizen."

Tod, from Union, April sessions, 1838; so christened by the court April 11th, in memory of John Tod, late a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Cass, from Union, January 21, 1843; named for General Lewis Cass, a soldier of the war of 1812, and a Senator of the United States.

Jackson, from Barree, January 15th, 1845.

Clay, from Springfield, April 15th, 1845; named for Henry Clay, of Kentucky.

Brady, from Henderson, April 25th, 1846; ordered by the court to be so called "in honor of General Hugh Brady, of the United States Army," who was a native of the county.

Penn, from Hopewell, November 21st, 1846; derives its name from the fact that one of the Proprietary Manors lies within its borders.

Oneida, from West, August 20th, 1856; bears the name that has been generally supposed to be the Indian equivalent for "Standing Stone."\*

Juniata, from Walker, November 19th, 1856; obtained its name from the junction of the two branches of the Juniata River on its northeastern border.

Carbon, from Tod, April 23d, 1858; was appropriately named for its mineral treasures.

Lincoln, from Hopewell, August 18th, 1866, honors a martyred President of the United States.

\* The lines between Oneida and Henderson were afterwards changed, whereby a part of each township was annexed to the other.



Logan, from West, September 24th, 1878, perpetuates the name of a celebrated Indian chief.

Miller, from Barree, November 8th, 1880.

Smithfield, the youngest, from Walker and Juniata, March 24th, 1886; it derives its name from the village of Smithfield, within its borders, which was laid out by Rev. Dr. William Smith, proprietor of the town of Huntingdon.

#### PROMINENT POINTS KNOWN TO THE PIONEERS.

"The Shadow of Death" is the gap in Shade Mountain through which Shade Creek passes.

The "Black Log" was in or near the gap of Black Log Mountain, east of Orbisonia.

The "Three Springs" are near the borough bearing that name.

"Jack Armstrong's Narrows," now shortened to "Jack's Narrows," are in the water gap between Mount Union and Mapleton.

"The Standing Stone" was at Huntingdon.

"John Hart's Log" laid near the traders' path, at a point now within the borough of Alexandria.

The "Water Street" is near the village bearing that name.

"Aucquick Old Town" was on the site of Shirleysburg.

"Boquet's Spring" is at McConnellstown, and "The Indian Sleeping Place" a short distance west therefrom.

"The Globe," from which the name Globe Run, a tributary of Shaver's Creek, is derived, was cut in the bark of a tree on the bank of the stream.

The "Warriors' Marks" and the "Half Moon" were tree marks similarly made by the Indians near the streams bearing those names respectively.

"Drake's Ferry" was across the Juniata River in the lower end of "Jack's Narrows," above the county bridge and west of Mount Union.

The "Warm Springs," five miles northeast of Huntingdon, were resorted to by invalids for their healing waters as early as 1775.

#### EARLY ROADS.

The first settlers entered the county over the roads used by the traders in their trips to and from the eastern and western parts of the province. They were only bridle paths. Indian trails crossed

the county in various directions, and in the timbered districts some of them were distinctly traceable within the recollection of many of our citizens now living. A principal road, used by the traders, entered the county on the eastern line of Tell Township, passed up the Tuscarora Creek by way of the "Trough" Spring to Shade Gap, thence to Black Log. At this point one branch went via Three Springs, Sideling Hill Gap, Juniata Crossings and Fort Bedford, and the other via Shirleysburg, Jack's Narrows, Huntingdon, Alexandria, Water Street and Frankstown.

The first public road was laid out from Standing Stone and Hart's Log to the great road in Bedford County "about fifteen perches above Bloody Run."\* From McConnellstown northward this road has two branches, one began at the stone-quarry, at the extreme southeastern part of the borough of Huntingdon, and the other at the lower end of the Water Street narrows. The survey was made in the summer of 1774, and the report of the viewers confirmed by the Bedford court at the July sessions of that year. The second public road, confirmed at the same session of the court, began at Silver's Ford, on the Juniata River, about a mile above the mouth of Aughwick Creek, and extended by the way of Shirleysburg, Cluggage's Mill and Shade Gap and intersected the wagon road at the Burnt Cabins.

The expense attending the cutting of roads through the mountain gorges was greater than the sparse settlements could undertake, and as soon as the country had produce to spare, it was conveyed to market overland by packing or down the streams by canoes, arks or keel-boats. Philadelphia could not be reached by water, and the Conewago Falls, in the Susquehanna, were regarded as so dangerous that few river men would hazard their passage. Michael Cryder, who owned a mill on the Juniata, a short distance above this borough, a sturdy German pioneer, resolved to risk the trip with an ark laden with 104 barrels of flour. Accompanied by two sons, he set out from the mill in April, 1792, and made the passage to Baltimore in five days. The newspapers of the day chronicled the event, and inform us that the flour was sold immediately at the highest price for cash, that the merchants of that city presented Mr. Cryder with \$104, as a premium for the risk he ran in attempting

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\* Now the borough of Everett, Bedford County.

the navigation of the Susquehanna, which had before been thought to be impracticable for boats of burden. The Commonwealth appropriated money from year to year for the improvement of the navigation of the larger streams and to aid in the construction of wagon roads. Cryder's successful experiment led to the more frequent use of the river and at every "rise" arks and keel-boats with cargoes of grain, iron, coal and often whiskey, would be floated to Baltimore or intermediate points. The arks were sold for the lumber they contained, while the keel-boats, freighted with merchandise or the household goods of settlers, would be pushed by hand back up the river.

The construction of turnpike roads was commenced in this county a few years after the close of the war of 1812. From the borough of Huntingdon, the Huntingdon, Cambria and Indiana road extended westward through Alexandria, Water Street, Yellow Springs, Hollidaysburg, Cresson and Ebensburg to Blairsville, and the Lewistown and Huntingdon road eastward through Mill Creek, Jackstown and McVeytown to Lewistown.

The Pennsylvania Canal, commenced in 1826, was opened to Huntingdon in the spring of 1831, and to Hollidaysburg in November, 1832. The Pennsylvania Railroad was opened from Harrisburg to Huntingdon on the 6th day of June, 1850, and on the 19th day of September, following, to Duncansville, via Altoona, where connection was made with the Allegheny Portage Railroad. The Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad, commenced in January, 1853, was opened to Marklesburg station August 13th, 1855; to the Shorp's Run coal mines early in 1856; to Hopewell the same season, and to Mount Dallas a few years later. The East Broad Top Railroad was opened to Orbisonia August 30th, 1873, and to Robertsdale, in the Broad Top coal field, on the 4th of November, 1874. The Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad passes through the northwestern edge of the county. Lateral roads of considerable length have been laid in several sections of the county for the transportation of iron ore, limestone and other furnace supplies.

#### EARLY SETTLERS.

George Croghan was, doubtless, the first white man who, by permission of the Proprietaries, established a domicile within the limits of

the county. He was an Irishman, and is supposed to have been born at or near the city of Dublin. In 1744 he was licensed as an Indian trader; four years later he purchased land in and became a resident of the Cumberland Valley, a few miles southwest of Harrisburg. At some date between 1751 and February, 1753, he settled on the site of Shirleysburg. As before alluded to, the Indian title to the lands in the valley of the Juniata had not been purchased by the Proprietaries of the province, but as Croghan enjoyed the confidence alike of the Proprietaries and the natives, it is probable that, with the assent of the latter, he was given a license to reside at "Aucquiek," where he could more readily observe and repress intrusion upon unpurchased lands. He continued to reside there until sometime in the year 1756.

Hugh Crawford was the first white owner of the tract of land which includes most of the built area of the borough of Huntingdon. He claimed to have made an improvement here in 1752 or 1753. It is a well established tradition that the Indians had cleared land and cultivated corn here at a very early date, and it is probable that Crawford had bargained with the natives for the land in anticipation of the Proprietary's purchase of 1754. He conveyed his improvement right in the tract to George Croghan by deed executed on the 1st day of June, 1760.

Peter Sheaver, licensed as an Indian trader in 1744, settled on the west bank of the creek that now bears his name, near its junction with the Juniata, in 1754, if not earlier.

Adam Torrence commenced an improvement on the "Hart's Log" tract, at Alexandria, in the fall of 1754, but was driven off by the Indians in 1755.

During the following decade pioneers settled in desirable situations in the limestone valleys or along the margin of the principal streams. As already noted, Barree and Dublin townships were formed in 1767. The first assessment in these townships, made in 1768, reveals the names of settlers as follows:

#### BARREE.

John Brady, father of Captain Samuel Brady and General Hugh Brady, and himself afterwards a captain in the Revolution. He settled first in Woodcock Valley, north of McConnellstown. He sold his land there to Rev. Dr. William Smith and moved to Stand-

ing Stone (Huntingdon), where General Hugh and Jennie, a twin sister, were born in 1768. He subsequently moved to Northumberland County. Charles Caldwell, who lived in Porter Township; William Dunn, who lived in Juniata Township; Joshua John; John Gamble (Gemmill), lived at Alexandria; Jacob Kore; Alexander McNitt, lived on Shaver's Creek; William Sparks, lived on Raystown Branch; Joseph Tatman, lived in Lincoln Township.

## DUBLIN.

Charles Boyle, lived at the mouth of Aughwick Creek; William Brown; John Burd, lived at or near Fort Littleton, Fulton County; James Cluggage, lived in Black Log Valley; Benjamin Elliott, supposed to have lived in Hill Valley; Robert Elliott, John Elliott, Geo. Henery, George Harbridge, Henry Holt, Robert Harvey, Andrew McCormick, David Owens, John Owens, Sr., and John Owens, Jr., lived on the Aughwick Creek, below Shirleysburg; Elias Petit; Robert Ramsey, lived near the Burnt Cabins, Fulton County; William Ramsey, John Ramsey, George Swaghart, Captain William Thompson.

The assessments of these original townships for subsequent years, as well as those of townships afterwards created, contain the names of many additional settlers whose descendants are now residents of the county, and to which it would be of interest to refer if time permitted.

The first newspaper venture of the county was by Michael Duffey, who on the 4th of July, 1797, commenced the publication of a weekly, entitled "The Huntingdon Courier and Weekly Advertiser." The place of publication was in a house that stood on the northern side of Allegheny Street, west of Third, in the borough of Huntingdon. In 1798 the paper expired for want of sufficient patronage. Another venture made the next year met the same fate, but from the 12th of February, 1801, when John McCahan commenced "The Huntingdon Gazette and Weekly Advertiser," newspapers were continuously published in the county.

The manufacture of iron was begun at Bedford Furnace, which was erected at Orbisonia about 1787. It was a small affair when contrasted with the Rockhill Furnace, located within view of the site of the pioneer establishment. The next in order of time was Barree Forge, in Porter Township, commenced in 1794. Hunting-

don Furnace, in Franklin Township, was commenced in 1796. The business proved remunerative and furnaces, forges and rolling mills sprang up in every section of the county, and "Juniata Charcoal Iron" attained great celebrity. The scarcity of wood for charcoal and the competition with anthracite and coke iron in time rendered most of these establishments unprofitable and all, with two exceptions, are now idle.

The settlement of the county brought the necessity for the erection of grist mills. The needs of the people were met one hundred years ago at those then running, as follows: Andrew Porter's, in Warrior's Mark Township; Abraham Sell's, on Spruce Creek, in Franklin Township; John Sharrer's, on the Little Juniata, at Barree Iron Works, Porter Township, known in provincial days as Miner's Mill, Thomas Miner having purchased the site in 1772 and sold to Jacob Miner, March 4th, 1776. The mill was running at the time of the sale to Jacob Miner, and was probably erected in 1774. Alexander McCormick's, West Township; John Little's, on the Laurel Run, Jackson Township, was running in 1785; Michael Cryder's, on the Juniata River, above Huntingdon, in Smithfield Township, built before the Revolution; Christian Stover's, on Mill Creek, in Brady Township. This mill, built and owned by Joseph Pridmore, was running in 1771. Nathaniel Garard's, on Vineyard Creek, below McConnellstown, in Walker Township, was in operation in 1782; William Morris', near the borough of Mount Union, Shirley Township, was in operation in 1780; James Somervill's, Shirley Township; Thomas Blair's, on the Aughwick Creek, near the line between Shirley and Cromwell townships, was in operation in 1780; Gaven Cluggage's, on Black Log Creek, east of Orbisonia, Cromwell Township, built and owned by Captain Robert Cluggage, was running in 1771; George Ashman's, on Black Log Creek, in Cromwell Township, was in operation in 1785; Nicholas Crum's, on Big Trough Creek, near the site of Paradise Furnace, Tod Township; Thomas Wilson's, on James Creek, in Penn Township. The entire annual product of all these fifteen mills would not equal that of either of those well equipped flouring mills now running in this borough.

#### SLAVERY.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth, recognizing the injustice of human slavery, on the 1st day of March, 1780, passed

a law providing for its gradual abolition. In 1790 forty-three slaves were held in the original county. This number grew less from year to year until it was wholly wiped out.

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From the time that Captain Robert Cluggage marched his company of riflemen from the Black Log Valley overland, in the early part of the summer of 1775, to join Washington at Boston, to the latest conflict of arms, the sons of Huntingdon County have ever been ready to rally at their country's call. They participated in the battles of the Revolution, in the war of 1812, the Mexican war, and were largely represented in the great Rebellion, where by their valor they honored themselves and the great Commonwealth under whose ensign they marched to the conflict.

By contrasting the past with the present, the march of progress will be most readily noted. During the century, whose closing days have just passed, the bridle-path was supplanted by broad highways; the ford by substantial bridges; the pack-horse was displaced by the express train; the sickle by the power-reaper; the flail by the steam thresher; home-spun by broad cloth; the little blast furnace, making eight or ten tons of pig metal per week, by the mammoth establishments yielding from sixty to one hundred tons per day. In 1797 the county of Huntingdon had one postoffice, now there are over seventy; in 1790 the population was 7,565, and in 1880, after three-fourths of our territory was cut off in the formation of other counties, it is 33,954. At a general election in 1795 the whole vote cast was 681, and in 1884 it was 7,194. The number of election districts in 1787 was 3, in 1887, 50.

Equal advances were made in the multiplication of religious societies, ministering to the spiritual wants of the people, and in the extension of facilities for the intellectual education of the young.

The record of the first century of the county of Huntingdon is made up—the books are closed, and we stand upon the threshold of a new century that will bring new responsibilities and new duties to be performed. It is idle to indulge in speculations or predictions for the future. Progress is written everywhere. Great achievements were accomplished in the century now passed, but still greater results will be wrought out in the one we have just

entered. May the Power that directs all things aright vouchsafe to this county and its people blessings in abundance, so that those who may be here to celebrate the second centennial may have occasion to render devout thanks for the advancements and improvements of the new century.

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## METHODISM ON THE NORTH BRANCH.

CONTRIBUTED BY C. F. HILL.

THE early history of Methodism on the North Branch, and contiguous territory, is well produced in a report written by Rev. B. H. Crever in 1876, and read in the Middle Pennsylvania Conference, at Harrisburg, as a centennial offering. The stone church referred to is still standing. Its location in reference to the site where Fort Jenkins stood is about three miles east of north. The following is an extract from the report as taken from the conference minutes:

"In Brier Creek Valley, Columbia County, Pa., a mile or more from the North Branch of the Susquehanna, and within four miles of Berwick, may be seen a stone building, forty feet front, as measured by the eye, and nearly or quite square. It is severely plain, and might easily escape the eye of the traveler; but, modest as it is, it is monumental, and, historically considered, is invested with an abiding interest. This plain house was the first complete church edifice, belonging to the Methodists, within what are defined as the present limits of the Danville District. It was erected in 1808. As a shrine of religious worship it has long been deserted; but, as a lingering fragrance hangs about the broken vase, so, around this deserted temple, lingers still its sacred memories—memories of holy joy that once thrilled the hearts of its worshippers, and of gospel triumphs once celebrated within its walls.

"Events and incidents thus commemorated possess more than a local or passing interest; with others of similar import in adjacent territory, they constitute no unimportant part of the early history of a great denomination. The country extending for miles from this venerable shrine is in the highest degree beautiful, consisting of highly cultivated farms, held by a prosperous people. When this church was built, the primitive forest of the river country had



been but barely grazed by the ax of the adventurous frontiersman. Hemlock, pine, beech and maple towered aloft everywhere, in solemn grandeur, from Northumberland to the farthest reach of Wyoming.

"In the rear of the church is a rural burial ground, where lie—like warriors asleep on the field of their triumphs—many of the moral heroes who did valiant service in the heroic era of Methodism. At a short distance from the church is a farm house, which likewise possesses historic interest. Like the sanctuary it is of stone, and so survives, while more perishable structures have disappeared. It is of unusual elevation, having, in some sort, a third story. This was the home of Thomas Bowman, who, with his brother, Christian, emigrated from Northampton County and settled here in the wilderness in 1792. This third story was a recognized place of worship, and became famous among the scattered saints years before the erection of the church.

"Here occurred, in 1805, the first great revival of religion in the North Branch country, so far as it is embraced in this sketch. A spirit-baptism anywhere at that day was the signal for the gathering of God's people from great distances, and so by an irresistible impulse they met here, coming—some on horse-back, more on foot—from a distance of thirty or forty miles.

"The Bowmans (Thomas and Christian) were Local Preachers. They were ordained by Bishop Asbury at a camp-meeting held near Kingston. From the time of their emigration, in 1792, these lay-evangelists labored with untiring zeal and gratifying success in the service of God. The opening up of farms in a heavily timbered country is a Herculean undertaking; but nothing could prevent these men from preaching Christ wherever the opportunity afforded. It is the story of incipient Methodism everywhere at that early day—simple, but spiritual and effective, services in the first rude habitations of the wilderness—in barns, in school houses, in forest temples. In this way the seed was sown and the ground prepared for the advent of the inevitable Itinerant.

"Coincidentally, or nearly so, with these early movements in the centre of the river-work of the district, the Holy Ghost was stirring sympathetic minds to a like soul-earnestness at various points to the north and to the south. Salem, Berwick, Huntingdon,

Nanticoke, above or northward, are places mentioned at a very early date; while in the opposite direction we hear of Fishing Creek, Gearhart's, Sunbury and Northumberland. The localities first named are in the direction of Wyoming, and, considered as points of spiritual activity, are, unquestionably, related to early and gracious manifestations in which Anning Owen was a conspicuous instrument. Owen was a blacksmith, and one of the few survivors of the dreadful massacre of Wyoming. It was while flying from merciless savages, momentarily expecting death, that the arrows of the Almighty pierced his heart. Years after, while hammering out on his anvil a support for his family, he was constrained—like another Sammy Hicks—to talk to the people of the love of God. He had fled, for a time, to Connecticut after the massacre, where, falling in with the Methodists, he attained to a full realization of the Divine favor. On his return his soul yearned for the souls of his neighbors. This was his sole authority for calling sinners to repentance. Soon converts gathered about him. These, in compliance with their wishes, he formed into a class—thus becoming a spiritual shepherd. His flock was known as 'The Ross Hill Class,' near Kingston—the first organization of a Methodist complexion in this renowned and beautiful valley.

"Mr. Owen gradually extended his labors to greater distances; while from among his spiritual children and from other sources, instruments appeared who joyfully co-operated with him. These penetrated our fields from the north, and, moving down the river flats, established classes successively at the several points already mentioned.

"Northumberland is an old and familiar name in the annals of Methodism in this State. Whether as designating a single community, and one of the earliest points occupied north of the capital, or as applied to a circuit of notable proportions, or to a well-known district, having the sweep of a conference, it has had its place in the published minutes from 1791 to this day. The circuit is the first mention made of the name—extending almost any distance north, east and west. To this field Richard Parrott and Lewis Browning were appointed (the former having, it is said, previously explored the territory) in 1791-2; while in 1793 the apostolic Asbury appears upon the ground. He found at that time in

Northumberland an organized society, among whom he remained for some days, embracing the Sabbath, preaching repeatedly, both in Northumberland and Sunbury. He is somewhat at home in the former place, being comfortably entertained at Mrs. Taggart's; in the latter he has but limited access to the people, because of the predominance of the German element. This circumstance explains the arrival, some months later, of Benjamin Abbott—a name holding an imperishable connection with the work on the North Branch of the Susquehanna. He was familiar with the German and English languages, in both of which he was a master in Israel.

“In the heroic days of Methodism the footsteps of the itinerant responded to the sound of the woodsman's ax. Minute men in Christ's army, they were ever ready, at a moment's warning, to preach, to pray, or to die. The work of Owen, the blacksmith, obtained the sanction of the Church, and he became her accredited instrument to explore and develop the field. He was supported or followed by Nathaniel Mills, Mr. Colbert, James Painter and Benjamin Abbott. The work crystalized—classes were formed, appointments established. The revival in 1805 is the ripe fruit of this gospel seed-sowing. At this date Joseph Fry came into view, connected with Northumberland County. Of commanding mien and great compass of voice, and endowed with a persuasive and pathetic eloquence, his labors were owned of God wherever he appeared. A year later (1806) Alfred Griffith is by his side—venerated names in the Baltimore Conference. Griffith, the then youthful evangelist, became the aged patriarch who only a few years ago was gathered to his fathers.

“The limits of this sketch will not permit us even to enter upon, much less explore, the field which thus opens. The sacred life-tide, which at first kept along the river bottom, soon extended to its tributaries, and, as the country opened more generally, spread through all the settlements. The erection of churches proceeded with growing frequency. Among the first were those at Berwick, at Melich's, on Fishing Creek, and at Mifflin, at Gearhart's. The country was at length covered by the net-work of the itinerant system, and to a second and third generation has descended the responsibility of inculcating that spiritual holiness once proclaimed by heroic and consecrated pioneers.

"The result is before the world. In this older portion of the district, extending to large pastorates lying at some distance from the river, we have a present membership of perhaps 6,000 souls. We have also sixty churches. We may justly say our position is impregnable—if we are true to ourselves and to our God—and that in what God has accomplished there is abundant reason for grateful adoration; but who dare affirm that our present position, whether as to numbers or experience, expresses the highest possible result of our religious system—of that pure and spiritual faith which we have inherited from those who were among the best living exponents? This grand possibility is yet to be witnessed. It is conditioned on a personal faith that grasps the full divine efficacy of Christ's death, and rejoices in complete and absolute devotion to His service."

In connection with the above, and as a contrast of the present condition of the Methodist Church and that of a century past, the following letter is probably one of the most striking. It was written February 24th, 1781, from Oxford Township, Chester County, by Richard Smith, to President Joseph Reed, of Philadelphia :

DEAR SIR:—Having not the least acquaintance with Mr. Reed, I hope the sending of this letter may be no offence; I'm at present uneasy, understanding, that a gentleman in Lancaster County known by the name of Joseph Miller Esqr. intends to get Mr. Reed to break or take my commission which I have the honor to hold (*viz.* that of Magistrate) for no other reason than a Methodist preacher at my house one evening, and two other times I went to hear them, meaning no harm. But Squire Miller allows the Methodists to be torify'd. Having heard that such people as the Methodists preached in the city of Philadelphia without any opposition, and being well informed by a Rev. clergyman, that they had done a great deal of good among many wicked people, and having recourse to our bill of Rights tolerating a liberty of conscience as was always heretofore obtained in said state of Pennsylvania I referred Squire Miller to the bill of Rights, though he says it was Benj Franklin and two or three other Deists that obtained that liberty, in spite of said Miller and some others of the convention, I told the squire it was a liberty I thought proceeded from a christian love; by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye love one another. Squire Miller has sent all the Methodist preachers he can catch to Lancaster goal; whether or not them people deserved such treatment God only knows. It is reported by the society that squire Miller adhiere to (called seceders) that the Methodists has been recruiting men for the British service if that is really so, I shall not justify any people of that stamp, for my own part, besides many others, thought them able preachers; and seen not the least sign of recruiting men for the British service, only recruiting volunteers for the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, was their

devoted study, and care to my view. Dear Sir, I shall conclude with the words of the great apostle Paul 25, C. Acts, 16, v. To whom I answered it is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die; before that he which is accused have the accuser face to face. Self praise is no commendation, but as for whigism I am now what I ever was since this present contest commenced, I have marched out before and since the Law obliged; and on every call I either went or sent, I make no doubt sir, but it may be told you that I'm toryfy'd, but it is very likely them or theirs that utter such news if any such be laid to my charge—lived in Philadelphia that campaign and not a man belonging to his company at Trenton the day of the cannonade where I myself was present and in said company a man killed and the hand shot off one other man, this is the solid truth can be proven by many people.

I am thy assured Friend,

R. SMITH.

CHESTER COUNTY, OXFORD TOWNSHIP, Feby 24, 1781.

## FORT HUFF—ITS HISTORY.

BY J. H. McMINN.

**H**ISTORY and tradition unite in giving a prominent place to a pioneer cabin in this valley, known as "Fort Huff." It has been variously located, on the edge of the plateau a little south of Dodge & Company's planing mill, on the flat east of Dodge's saw mills, on the east side of Lycoming Creek, as it now runs, and on the plateau near what is now Fourth and Stevens streets, Newberry, all of which are only approximately correct.

It is not remarkable that the exact spot cannot readily be identified, on account of the change in the topography of the whole vicinity. The creek now flows in a channel far away from the bed of fifty years ago, and the old course has become a marsh or completely obliterated by being filled up. The old thickets of laurel, willow, birch, buttonwood, walnut, elm and other woods that once forbade the approach of man or beast, have been cleared off, the swamps have been drained and fertile fields now greet the eye where once was an impenetrable jungle. The removal of bushes and roots has given the current an easy means of scouring away the alluvial banks until the once narrow, tortuous Lacomik now resembles a river in the dimensions, of its channel.

The further investigation has been pushed, the more certain it appears that "Fort Huff" was the fruit of a grim sense of humor that prevailed at an early day, and instead of being a stockade in-

closure, a fortified dwelling or any other refuge in time of danger, it appears to have been merely the unpretentious cabin of an adventurous squatter, whose mischievous disposition caused a deal of trouble amongst his neighbors.

After visiting all the alleged sites, carefully studying the surroundings and conversing with responsible citizens personally acquainted with many of the chief actors in the scene, the following consecutive account has been made up of bits of information gleaned from many sources and woven together with the best authenticated thread of narrative:

The name Huff was not uncommon in the early history of this valley, a family of that name having settled near Milton at a very early day, from which the hero of this tale probably descended.

"When Hawkins Boone, an early surveyor, first visited the Bald Eagle Valley, he found that a man named Huff had cut logs with which to build a cabin near the present site of Milesburg.

"Edmund Huff, as early as 1768, settled and improved a spot near the mouth of Antes Creek, Nippenose bottom."\*

Edmund Huff settled one mile above the mouth of Lycoming Creek in 1774 and made improvements.

It is possible that these are one and the same individual, and that he left the valley at the time of the "Big Runaway," in 1778, and returned with the other settlers soon after peace was declared by the last treaty at Fort Stanwix, October 23d, 1784, when the last purchase was made and the boundary line established.

When Edmund Huff came up he built a common round-log cabin, one story high, with a loft, located about a quarter of a mile from the river, and a less distance from the west shore of the creek, as it flowed at that time, on the creek bottom-land close against the base of the plateau, which protected them from the cold wind; the exact spot being now east of Dodge & Company's lumber yard, and a few rods north of their edging burner.

When they were boys, Mr. Valentine King, now living in Newberry, and Mr. Charles King, of Williamsport, hauled away the stone that had been used in the foundation for a house, which their father told them was the last of "Fort Huff."

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\*See History of the West Branch Valley, page 159.

The Huff family was looked upon with suspicion and uneasiness by their neighbors, on account of their "having no visible means of support," and a stealthy conduct generally, but no definite ground for accusation occurred until an event transpired which suddenly closed their career and made them famous in history.

William King lived in a pioneer cabin that stood on what is now the northwest corner of Arch Street and the canal, Jaysburg. One night he was awakened by the violent squealing of his pigs; whereupon he hastily arose and went out, only to find that they were moving rapidly away. He followed them until quite near the Huff cabin, when he was fallen upon and severely beaten. With great difficulty he made his way back home, and on the following day he informed some of his neighbors of the occurrence, when they readily tracked the intruders through the light fall of snow to the Huff premises, and as a test opened their pig-pen, when King's pigs rushed out and made for home as fast as possible. The house was closed and no signs of life were to be found, so a warrant was issued for the arrest of the occupants, but when the officer undertook to serve it he found the place barricaded and everything in a threatening attitude. This phase of the proceeding excited the interest as well as the determination of the whole neighborhood, and the sheriff was summoned, who organized a posse and broke down the door and carried the men away to jail, after which a search was made and the loft was found to be a general store-house of articles that had been missed throughout the settlement. There were log chains, cow chains, halters, cow bells, sickles, harness, hoes, bridles, broad-axes, bags, chopping axes, adzes, draw-knives and many other articles which had been stolen and covered up with bran.

This development so incensed the people that they forthwith removed the women, set the furniture outside and burned the place to get rid of it, holding a grand jubilee meanwhile. And thus occurred the storming, sacking and burning of "Fort Huff," the capture of the garrison and consequent joy over the successful, though bloodless campaign. The weather was cold and the women and children had nowhere to go, so Mr. King, being their nearest neighbor, took them in and kept them until the following spring, when it was agreed to release "Old Huff" on condition that he

would take his family and leave the country, which he is said to have done.

In John Slone's ledger, dated Newberry, 1795, is to be seen the following account:

EDMUND HUFF.		DR.	
		s.	d.
Febry. 2d, 1801, 20 8 gills whiskey.....	3.	9.	
" 11th, " By cash recd. in full.....	3.	9.	

It would be interesting to know exactly who this thirsty Edmund Huff happened to be; but one thing is certain, he paid for his whisky, a fact that does not stand to the credit of very many of his fellow citizens of much higher pretensions.

In explanation of the reputed sites of "Fort Huff," it may be said that the twelve-acre field on the edge of the plateau, now occupied by the Dodge Mill's lumber yard, was always facetiously known as the "Fort Huff Field," from its close proximity to that celebrated spot.

The bottom field, lying east of the creek, or the Sutton Farm, (now owned by Hon. R. J. C. Walker), has been called the "Fort Huff Field," and consequently the site of "Fort Huff," through a misapprehension of the true history. The locating of "Fort Huff" near Fourth and Stevens streets doubtless arose from confusing this mythical tale with the extremely dim account preserved of a genuine stockade inclosure that was almost completed at this point, when a massacre of settlers took place near by, and the "Big Runaway" followed soon after, leaving all the improvements to destruction by the merciless savages who made their last successful descent upon the settlers, and held uninterrupted possession for six years afterward.

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THE first deed recorded at Sunbury was on June 8th, 1772, in deed book A, page 1, William Lee to S. Young and William Griffin, for 300 acres of land on Penn's Creek. It was acknowledged before Esquire Hunter, at Fort Augusta.

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THE first store in the borough of Williamsport is supposed to have been opened by William Wilson in 1801. It occupied the site of the present postoffice.



## CURIOUS OLD PAPERS.

As C. M. Clement, Esq., of Sunbury, was recently searching in the Prothonotary's office for the commissions of the first judges of Northumberland County, he came across a bundle of papers of apparently great age. On investigation it proved to be a package containing \$194 in Continental money which had been assigned by Stephen Fiddler, an insolvent debtor confined in the Sunbury jail during the year 1787. The following is the text of the documents:

"Return of the property of Stephen Fiddler, an insolvent debtor, contained in the goal at Sunbury, to wit: A debt due by George Ulrich, sixteen shillings and ten and a half pence."

In the package was Continental money to the amount of \$194. There was a \$40 bill signed by B. Roberts, issued September 28, 1778, a \$60 bill of the same date, and a \$30 bill of 1776. There was also "a groat," a Colonial bill amounting to four pence. Then followed an assignment of the money for the benefit of his creditors, witnessed by Simon Snyder, afterwards Governor of the State. With these papers was the following petition:

"To the Worshipful Justices of the Court of Common Pleas to be held for the County of Northumberland, the fourth Tuesday in February 1787.

"The petition of Stephen Fiddler, of Buffalo township. Humbly Showeth that all your petitioners property have been lately sold by the Sheriff and Constable for debt, and now myself confined in the goal of the county and I have nothing to support myself in the cold goal and nothing to support my family at home, and I can pay no debt in goal or have no real or personal property, and my creditors will allow me no time, and finding it out of my power to pay the demand against me, my distress, and the distress of my family, obliges me to apply to the Hon'ble Court for the benefit of the insolvent act. Your petitioner pray your worship to do me justice in my distress. And your petitioner will ever pray."

Then followed the signature, "Stephanus Fiddler." This is indorsed, "Prisoner discharged, February term, 1787."

These curious old documents illustrate the method of doing business over one hundred years ago in Northumberland County. Many other old papers of equally as curious import are to be found in the archives of that county.

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THE first lawyers to open offices in Williamsport were Robert McClure and Charles Huston. They came in 1796.

## A HUNDRED YEARS.\*

BY "EDITH MAY"—MISS ANNA DRINKER.

[The writer is a great-granddaughter of Henry Drinker (the elder), founder of the Drinker estate of 500,000 acres in Susquehanna and neighboring counties, and to whom reference is made in the poem.]

Pine, hemlock, beech stout arms embraced,  
Close-fronted, as to meet a foe,  
Spread, right and left, a billowy waste,  
'Tis just one hundred years ago.

Come but the winter winds to smite  
With steely edge their columned pride;  
No harvest marks the summer's flight,  
No dropping seed the gay springtide.

How gay—with bird life all awake!  
How still as a cathedral nave!  
You hear the beast that seeks the lake,  
His lapping tongue that strikes the wave.

Oh virgin shade and virgin soil,  
Oh cloistered beauty kept for God,  
Hearken! the heavy foot of toil  
Is on thy consecrated sod.

And man the spoiler, man the lord,  
And man the priest unveils thy charms,  
'Tis spoken, the creative word—  
Give fruitful breasts and clasping arms.

The forest falls, the sunshine lifts  
Its banners: from the rugged hills  
Strong hands compel reluctant gifts,  
And smiling wealth the valley fills.

I know the land, I know its reach  
Of waving hill-tops, to the blue  
Of distant mountains stretching back,  
And pine and darksome hemlock too.

I know its sunsets' purple flame,  
Its changeful moods, its breezes free;  
I know! "Who shall divorce proclaim,"  
Sweet Nature, "betwixt thee and me?"

[And one whose blood is in my heart,  
One who "a hundred years" is dead,

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\* Read at the centennial of Susquehanna County, which was celebrated at Hallstead, October 10th, 11th and 12th, 1887. Ozias Strong was the first settler.

Who in those rude times had his part,  
Gives me, to-day, my daily bread.

Who cared for the unborn, who planned  
A future for the unknown heir.

The wide primeval forest scanned  
And saw a wealthy future there.]

Bloom, pleasant nooks where I have lain,  
The noonday sunshine brooding still,  
And felt God come, in golden rain,  
To wed the mead, the vale, the hill!

Toss, tree tops, in the mid-day heat;  
Thwart, dancing winds, the sunbeams warm;  
Laugh, waves I've trod with naked feet,  
Hills I have climbed through calm and storm.

Yet, where the wheat springs, comes the tare,  
Naught perfect here, naught wholly clean;  
For "fair is foul, and foul is fair,"  
And earth hangs heaven and hell between.

Lord of the harvest, watch this field,  
Curse Thou the tare, bless Thou the grain;  
Bid it a tenfold measure yield  
When comes "a hundred years" again!

CONVALESCENT RETREAT, Delaware Co., Pa., August, 1887.

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THE following copy of a letter dated Williamsport, April 25th, 1828, which may be found on the 287th page of the 1st volume of *Hazard's Register*. will show the reader the difference between then and now in the transportation business:

For a few days past a great number of arks, laden with wheat, flour, iron, whisky, &c., passed this place, destined for the Philadelphia market, should the Union Canal be provided with boats, &c., sufficient for their immediate accommodation. The river is at present in fine arking order, and no doubt every exertion will be made by our merchants and farmers to transmit all their surplus grain and other produce by the present opportunity.

The sight of an ark on the river at this day loaded with "wheat, flour, whisky or iron," would be a curiosity indeed. And yet it is only fifty-nine years since the farmers and manufacturers had no other means of getting their productions to market.

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IN 1794 there were three stores in Sunbury. One was kept by William Dewart, grandfather of Hon. William L. Dewart.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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Two Dollars per Annum, in Advance. Single Numbers, Twenty Cents.

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JOHN F. MEGINNESS, *Editor and Publisher*,  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

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WILLIAMSPORT, DECEMBER, 1887.

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## PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

Rev. Joseph Stevens, D. D., pastor of the Jersey Shore Presbyterian Church for thirty-six years, has, after a year's labor, completed a history of the Presbytery of Northumberland, which will be published in THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL, beginning with the January number. He brings the history down from the beginning to the present time, carefully noting the trials of the pioneer ministers, the changes, the founding of new churches, and other matters relating to the church which occurred from time to time during a period of one hundred years. The work was necessarily slow and tedious, as it involved the examination of many old church records, the writing of many letters of inquiry, the sifting of reports of meetings and discussions, &c., but he has succeeded in preparing the first complete history of the Presbytery ever written. In the course of the work he gives brief biographical sketches of many of the early ministers who were identified with the foundation of the church in the West Branch Valley, which will prove an invaluable contribution to the history of the Presbyterian Church in this section of the State, and be much sought after.

The Presbytery of Northumberland, as now constituted, consists of the counties of Clinton, Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union, Cameron and Lycoming. Dr. Stevens is well known as a learned, careful and devout man, and it is a source of congratulation that the work of writing the history of this grand

old Presbytery fell into such competent hands. In May next the centennial anniversary of Presbyterianism in this part of Pennsylvania will be appropriately celebrated in the churches, and it is timely to have the history prepared in anticipation of the event.

As the work is necessarily voluminous, it will run through four numbers of *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL*, closing with the April number, which will be issued about the middle of March. Persons wishing the history in full are advised to subscribe at once. Back numbers of the monthly can still be supplied, and as the history will be completed in this volume—which ends with the April number—interested parties will see the importance of ordering it without delay. The price is only \$2 per annum, and once out of print it will not be reproduced.

The volume will also contain the full biographical sketch of the distinguished Rev. John Bryson, who was pastor of the Warrior Run and Chillisquaque churches for about half a century, written by Rev. J. P. Hudson, and published in the May and June numbers. In addition to this, subscribers will also get the quaint journal of Samuel Maclay, while surveying the West Branch, Sinnemahoning, Allegheny and other rivers in 1790, in company with Timothy Matlack and John Adlum, by order of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, which was completed in the November number. It is rare that such an opportunity is presented to possess so many valuable old documents relating to the early history of this part of the State for such a small sum of money.

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REV. JOHN H. BRYSON is the pastor of a Presbyterian church at Huntsville, Alabama, and was the Moderator of the Assembly which met at Augusta, Georgia, in 1886. His father was the Rev. Henry Bryson, D. D., of Fayetteville, Tenn., and he was a native of Laurens County, South Carolina. He died November 8th, 1876, in his 76th year. His father, William Bryson, and grandfather of Rev. John H. Bryson, emigrated from County Antrim, Ireland. It is probable that he was one of the brothers of the father of Rev. John Bryson, of Warrior Run Church, who came to this country and settled in the Cumberland Valley in 1748. Who can trace the genealogy of this family?

## NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

JOHN ELSE, of Montoursville, celebrated the 90th anniversary of his birth on the 27th of October, 1887, by having his relatives and friends around him; and a band of music serenaded him in the evening. Mr. Else was born in Bucks County, on the Delaware, 23 miles above Philadelphia, October 27th, 1787. His father removed his family to Lycoming County in 1807 and settled on a tract of land, containing 200 acres, two miles above the mouth of Loyalsock Creek. John Else, having grown to manhood, purchased a tract of eight acres of his father in Montoursville, in 1831, on which he built a house, which is still standing. He has been a resident of the town from that time to the present, and although he has started in on the last decade of a century, he is in fair health, moves about the streets, loves to converse with his friends about early times and the marvelous changes that have taken place in three-quarters of a century.

WILLIAM M. QUIGLEY, a resident of Lock Haven, was born at McEwensville, Pa., August 10th, 1804. With his father, John Quigley, he removed to Liberty, near Great Island, June 11th, 1813, where he resided until February 22d, 1838, when he was married to Miss Harriet D. Barker, a daughter of Captain John Barker.

After their marriage Mr. Quigley and his wife took up their residence where the city of Lock Haven now stands, and where there were then but five houses. For many years he was engaged in lumbering, but in 1852 assumed the proprietorship of the Woodward House, in Lockport, which was then, as it is now, a favorite stopping place for raftsmen. Of late years he has lived a retired life of ease, in full enjoyment of good health, with mental faculties unimpaired. He delights in relating incidents of early history, and can point out the location the first store in Lock Haven occupied, and recalls many happy hours spent on the platform built in the trees, on the bank of the river, by Jerry Church, the founder of the city.

WILLIAM WHITE, of Lock Haven, was born at Dunnstown, July 23d, 1805, and has spent most of his days within sight of the city

where he now resides. His wife, whose maiden name was Levinia Ross, is living and has reached the advanced age of 78 years. Fourteen children were born to them, nine of whom are living. Mr. White built and was proprietor of the well-known White's Hotel, at Lock Haven, which was destroyed by fire in 1869.

The closing days of his life are being spent within a short distance of the place of his birth, and on fine days he may be seen walking about the streets of a busy city, on the site of which in his early days he assisted in harvesting crops which the fertile soil produced.

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### RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

HON. WILLIAM A. MCCONNELL, fourth son of John and Agnes McConnell, was born in Lycoming County, Pa., March 20, 1810, and died October 9, 1887, aged 77 years, 6 months and 19 days. He spent his early life on his father's farm, attending school in winter time, until he was twenty years of age, when he went to learn the carpenter trade, which occupation he followed for seven years. In 1836 he went West and located at Richmond, McHenry County, Illinois, in May, 1837. He was the first settler in that township, and his nearest neighbors, the "History of McHenry County" tells us, were at McHenry and Lake Geneva, there being but two families at each of these places. He believed that agriculture was to be the foundation of American life, hence laid his claim, and when the land came into the market, purchased it of the government, his first purchase being 480 acres. From time to time he added to this, until he owned 1,400 acres of as choice land as there is in McHenry County. But his motive was not a selfish one in thus securing so much landed property, for he was looking to the future prosperity of his family that was to be, as was evidenced by the fact that in 1872 he gave to each of his three sons as fine a farm as any man could wish, each of these farms being well stocked and having sufficient grain in their graneries for a year's use. His own residence was one-half mile west of the centre of Richmond. Here he built a log cabin in which he lived fifteen years, at the expiration of which time he built a frame dwelling just across the road, in which he lived for twenty years. He then

built a new house on the site of the old log cabin, in which he made his home up to the time of his death.

The McHenry County *Democrat* pays a handsome tribute to deceased. It says that during all the years of his residence in that county he held an exalted position in the minds of his fellow men, for he was a man of sound judgment and untarnished reputation, and was noted for correct ways of living. He was the first justice of the peace of Richmond Township, as well as in the county, which position he held for thirty-six years, and were there no other evidences of the confidence and esteem in which he was held by his fellows, this would be sufficient. But as good men are ever wanted in legislative and executive positions, he was often chosen to represent the people's interest and protect their trusts. He was the first postmaster of Richmond, receiving his appointment from President Van Buren. He was elected commissioner of McHenry County in 1844, and served two terms of three years each. He served one term on the Board of Equalization and one term in the State Legislature, the first session after the adoption of the new constitution. He served several years as supervisor of his town, and acted as chairman of the county board for fifteen years. The Governor of the State paid him the well merited compliment of appointing him one of seven to locate the State Asylum at Kankakee. He settled up almost all the large estates in his neighborhood. His official acts were always characterized by honesty and faithfulness, hence he has left his impress on the civil history of the county to such a degree that time cannot remove it. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for fifty-five years, and was also an honored member of the Masonic fraternity. He was a member of the first temperance society organized in the county, namely, the old Washingtonians.

Mr. McConnell was married in 1838, in Pennsylvania, to Miss Elizabeth Bodine, who was born in Lycoming County in 1811, and who still survives him, the pride of her children and the joy of her grandchildren. To them were born three sons—A. B., of Woodstock, John and George, of Richmond, all of whom have raised up families that are a credit to their parentage.

MRS. ELIZA LAIRD, who died at her residence in Williamsport, on the 21st of October, 1887, was born in Williamsport, on the



17th of March, 1809, and lived here during her entire life. Her maiden name was McElrath and her parents lived on the corner of Third and Mulberry streets, where the mansion of Governor William F. Packer afterwards stood. She was a sister of Thomas McElrath, who was associated with Horace Greeley in founding the New York *Tribune*. Mrs. Laird, who was 78 years, 6 months and 4 days old, was one of the oldest members of Pine Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Williamsport, and four ministers officiated at her funeral, viz., Rev. Thompson Mitchell, D. D.; Rev. J. H. McGarrah, her pastor; Rev. W. A. Houck, and Rev. John Haughawout. Thomas McElrath, of New York, who is in his 81st year, was present at the funeral.

MRS. ISABELLA BRADY BRUNER, whose death occurred at Lock Haven, October 30th, 1887, was born near Muncy, in May, 1808. She was a relative of the famous Captain John Brady. On the 17th of June, 1830, she became the wife of Abraham Bruner, and in 1874 they removed to Dunnsburg, Clinton County, where they resided until 1878, when they took up their residence in Lock Haven. Mr. Bruner died in February, 1879. The Lock Haven *Express* says that Mrs. Bruner was the mother of nine children, three boys and six girls; Abraham, the eldest, removed to Kansas, where he still resides, and is highly respected by his neighbors. He has filled the position of treasurer of Pawnee County.

A. J. Bruner read law with H. T. Beardsley, removed to Bath, Mason County, Illinois, where he was admitted to the bar and made his profession a success. He enlisted in the war—served as lieutenant—took sick—returned to Bath and died November 20th, 1861, aged 27 years.

John B. Bruner settled in Johnson County, Illinois, enlisted as a private and was promoted to major for valiant services. He was then elected to the Legislature, served two terms as treasurer of Johnson County, and is now president of the First National Bank at Olathe, Kansas.

The daughters are Kate, married to John Probst; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Winters; Isabella, wife of James Derr, of Williamsport; Lydia, now Mrs. Ellis Myers; Sarah, wife of James A. Bickford, and Anna M. Bruner, with whom the deceased made her home since the death of her husband.

LEWIS ZANER was born in Columbia County, Pa., October 2d, 1804. When he married he and his wife settled in what was then the almost unbroken forest of Cherry Township, Sullivan County, in 1828, on what is now the farm of his son, A. H. Zaner. The *Dushore Review*, in noting his death, says that he began the struggle of life single handed and by patience, perseverance, economy and frugality amassed a fortune of no mean proportions. He was blunt of speech and manner, but possessed of sterling qualities of worth that won for him friends in spite of the rough exterior. He was one of the first sheriffs of Sullivan County, and was for a long time prominent in the administration of her affairs. His wife died some four years ago. After her death he removed to Muncy, where he purchased a beautiful home and surrounded himself with all the comforts which his fancy dictated and his wealth made attainable. It was here that his last years were spent, although frequent visits to his children in Cherry made his sturdy and erect figure a familiar one on the streets. His last visit to Dushore was made but a week or two before his death. He died on Thursday, October 27th, 1887, at Muncy, of some difficulty of the stomach, after an illness of less than a week, aged 83 years and 25 days. He leaves two sons and four daughters: Adam H. Zaner, of Cherry; Levi Zaner, of Washingtonville, Pa.; Mrs. Henry Whitmire and Mrs. Jonathan Colley, of Muncy; Mrs. Amos Cox and Mrs. D. E. Dieffenbach, of Cherry. He was borne to the grave at Dushore by W. C. Garey, James Thomson, Hon. F. B. Pomroy, Hon. D. H. Fairchild and B. M. Sylvara, of Dushore, and Peter Yonkin, Sr., of Cherry.

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THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL is indebted to the courtesy of Hon. John Blair Linn, author of the *Annals of Buffalo Valley*, for the cut of Ludwig Derr's famous old mill, which he erected at Lewisburg as early as 1772. This mill was one of the landmarks of that place for many years, and it attracted much attention on account of its rude appearance and the historical associations which clustered around it. The last vestige disappeared a few years ago.

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MR. DUDLEY A. MARTIN informs THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL that Mr. E. C. Phillips, of DuBoistown, Pa., has in his possession the rifle used by Colonel Henry Antes in the early days of the settle-

ment of the West Branch Valley. The gun is said to possess great shooting qualities, and probably did good service in the days of '76. Mr. Phillips is a descendant of Colonel Antes and prizes the old gun very highly.

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IN the latter part of June, 1835, a destructive tornado swept down Lycoming Creek. The dwelling house of Alexander Carothers was unroofed and otherwise injured. His barn was literally overthrown, and his store house much injured. The barn of Oliver Watson was completely razed to the foundations, and out of a flourishing orchard of about sixty trees but one was left standing. Mr. Wilhelm also had his house unroofed. Much other damage to property along the stream was done.

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### TOMBSTONE RECORD.

We continue our record this month with inscriptions copied from tombstones in the cemetery at Sunbury, as follows:

In memory of  
BENJAMIN REAM  
Who Departed this  
Life Oct. 25, A.D. 1783  
Aged 15 years 9 Mos  
and 2 weeks.

The peculiarity about the grave of this boy is that it is covered with a piece of dark slate, shaped exactly like the lid of a coffin, and of full length. And although it was placed there over one hundred years ago, the slab is in a good state of preservation, and attracts the attention of the curious on account of its unique appearance.

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JAMES  
son of  
David & Rebecca  
McKinney,  
Born Dec. 3, 1774  
Died April 22, 1775  
Aged 4 mos & 19 d.

This grave-stone, according to the report of the Sexton, is the

oldest in the cemetery. Other burials were made before this, but the graves are unmarked.

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JACOB BECKER  
Born in  
Baden, Germany  
Aug. 1726,  
Died in Sunbury,  
Nov. 4, 1829  
aged  
103 years, & 2. ms.

So far as known this man is the oldest whose remains lie in this burial ground. Another curious inscription reads as follows:

This Stone is Dedicated to the  
memory of  
JOHN BLACK, who was born in  
Ireland in the Year of  
Our LORD 1735  
And departed this life  
November 13, 1790 at  
5 o'clock in the morning  
Aged 55 years and 7 months

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IN the fall of 1831, according to an old copy of the *Miltonian*, "not a grain of wheat or a pound of flour" could be purchased in the borough of Milton, and many of the inhabitants were in distress for want of it. The same paper quoted wheat at \$1.12 per bushel, and flour \$5.62½ per barrel. Complaint was made that the farmers did not thresh their crops. They were probably holding their wheat for a higher price.

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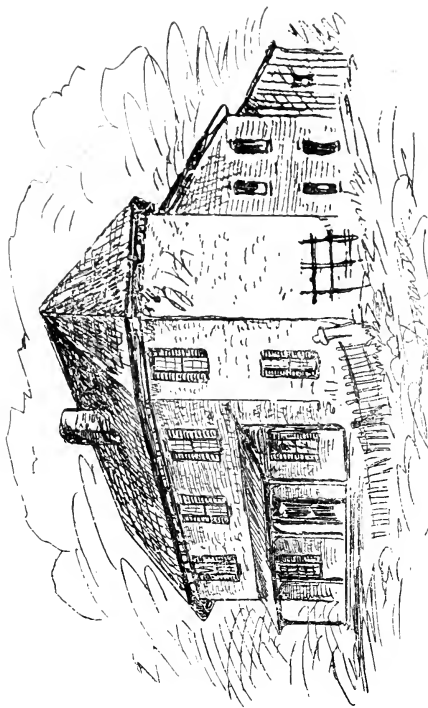
THE census of 1830 showed Lycoming County to have 17,637 inhabitants. There were only five slaves in the county, and they were females. Two were under ten years of age, two were under twenty-four, and one was under thirty-six.

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WHEN William F. Packer ran for Governor in 1857, he received 1,464 votes in Clinton County, and his competitor, David Wilmot, received 1,083.





Old Williamsport Academy Building, West Third Street.

See page 292.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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## HISTORY

—OF—

## NORTHUMBERLAND PRESBYTERY.

BY REV. JOSEPH STEVENS, D. D.

At the stated meeting of the Presbytery of Northumberland, held at Newberry, October, 1886, a committee, consisting of Rev. Joseph Stevens, D. D.; Rev. Joseph Nesbitt, D. D. and Rev. R. L. Stewart, was appointed to prepare a history of this Presbytery, in compliance with the recommendation of the General Assembly, in view of the Assembly's centennial celebration to be observed in May, 1888. The second and third members of the committee, being closely occupied with their respective pastoral charges, complacently resigned the whole work into the hands of the chairman, who, with no small degree of reluctance and self-distrust, entered on the undertaking, which has proved laborious and difficult much beyond his anticipation. The trouble in obtaining early records, their sparseness, their obscurity and sometimes their inaccuracies, have occasioned much perplexity and the necessity for extended research. The effort to gather up the fragments of traditionary history from the few living people who mingled with the original or early members of the Presbytery and knew something about its early affairs, and to reduce their often widely different statements to harmony, has also been a somewhat arduous task. The ministers and church sessions of the olden time seem either to have been impressed with the conviction that the Church in these parts would never have a history worth writing, or to have been too busy with the work of their extensive charges to find time for making records. The records they did make are very concise and imperfectly written. By persevering research and patient comparison of documents and traditions, we think we have succeeded in furnishing a history that can be relied on so far as it goes. Especial attention has been paid to dates, and those here recorded may be received as the most trustworthy that can be gleaned from existing sources of knowledge.

We beg leave to acknowledge our indebtedness for useful help in this work to

Meginness' History of the West Branch Valley; the minutes of the Presbyteries of Donegal, Carlisle and Huntingdon; the minutes of the Northumberland Presbytery from 1811 to the present time have been carefully searched and drawn from; the centennial sermons of Rev. D. J. Waller, Sr.; Rev. J. Nesbitt, D.D., and the late Rev. I. Grier, D.D.; the pamphlet of the Rev. R. L. Stewart, containing centennial discourses, &c., of the Mahoning Church; Gibson's History of the Huntingdon Presbytery, and the American Edition of Chambers' Encyclopedia.

## PART I.

The centennial celebration of the Declaration of Independence in 1876 awakened a lively interest among the Presbyterians of our country, in the history of individual churches bearing the name of Presbyterian; especially of those whose organizations dated back to an early period of the country's settlement; and many historical sermons were preached, and committed to the custody of the Presbyterian Historical Society. The approaching centennial anniversary of the organization of the General Assembly, in the United States, seems to have awakened similar interest in the history of Presbyteries; and the General Assembly has suggested and recommended that the various Presbyteries which compose its constituency make this event the occasion of preparing each its own history, for preservation and reference. This centennial of the General Assembly will occur and be publicly celebrated in May, 1888.

The Presbytery of Northumberland having, in compliance with the expressed desire of the General Assembly, appointed a committee to reduce the material of its history to tangible form, the following pages contain the result of their effort:

"The Presbyterian Church in the United States was founded by Scotch, Irish, Huguenot, Dutch and German Reformed emigrants, with a few from New England." Persecution in Europe forced many to flee to the New World in the hope of finding there a home where they could enjoy entire freedom of conscience, and be able to bring up their families in the creed and form of worship to which they were attached. These emigrants sought homes in several of the colonies, but Pennsylvania seems to have been the "Land of Promise" to the larger proportion of them; especially to the Scotch and Scotch-Irish. William Penn's well-known championship of religious freedom was perhaps the attraction that drew



them thither, offering them a guarantee that under his administration they would not be disturbed or hindered in their religious worship.

The Presbyterian Church, in what is called Eastern Pennsylvania—east of the Alleghenies, had an early origin in the centers of population along the Delaware River and its vicinity. Presbyterians came into this part of the New World almost contemporaneously with William Penn and his co-religionists, and, as is their habit wherever they locate, soon began to organize themselves into churches of the Presbyterian type. William Penn first landed on the shores of the Delaware, with a few of his co-religionists, in 1682. He had received the royal grant of the territory of Pennsylvania about a year earlier, and the first Presbyterian church, at Philadelphia, was organized in 1698. From these centers of population along the Delaware, Presbyterian churches gradually, but not rapidly at first, extended themselves with the advancing population towards the Allegheny Mountains into the interior of the province.

The Scotch, especially the Scotch-Irish, brought their Presbyterianism with them when they came to the New World. They usually settled in communities; a number of families would select such a locality as suited their fancy and plant themselves upon it; at once they would enter upon the task of clearing up farms, establishing municipal regulations, and erecting church buildings of rough material and rude architectural style, in which, with their families, they met stately to worship the God of their fathers. They were pre-eminently pioneers, ever pushing on to new, unsettled regions, and preparing the way and the material for new settlements. The people of no other nationality pushed into the wilderness as they did. Sturdy, fearless and industrious, they soon made for themselves comfortable homes, and built up civil and religious communities of the most substantial character.

As these communities increased in numbers, churches multiplied, ministers came over from the native land of the settlers thoroughly equipped with all the learning of the age, and thus these churches were furnished with pastors capable of feeding them with the strong meat of the gospel, by which they were nourished into a noble Christian manhood. When the number of churches became

sufficiently large in any one, or a number of contiguous communities, to warrant it, a Presbytery was organized; and in this way Presbyterianism spread itself, in its organized form, gradually to the foot of the Alleghenies, and by and by reached the western limits of the territory included in the royal grant to William Penn, and the additional purchases which he had made, now the domain of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

To learn how gradual was the progress of the Church towards the interior, and westward, and how slow at first, we have only to notice the dates of the organizations of the respective Presbyteries which now occupy the interior territory of the State. The Presbytery of Philadelphia was organized a little later than 1700—the precise date having been written on the first page of the records, which has been lost. This Presbytery consisted of seven ministers: Samuel Davis, John Hampton, Francis Mackermie and George McNish, from Ireland; Nathaniel Taylor and John Wilson, from Scotland, and Jedediah Andrews, from New England. In 1716 the Synod of Philadelphia was formed, consisting of four Presbyteries: Philadelphia, with six ministers and churches; New Castle, six ministers and churches; Snow Hill, three ministers and churches; Long Island, two ministers and churches. Donegal Presbytery, now Westminster, was formed by act of the Synod of Philadelphia, in 1732. This Presbytery had the oversight of all the Presbyterian churches westward, east of the Alleghenies. In 1786, fifty-four years later, the Presbytery of Carlisle was formed from the territory of Donegal, lying westward from a certain line, by the Synods of New York and Philadelphia, in their united capacity, just previous to the formation of the General Assembly. From this date onward the progress of the Church seems to have been much accelerated, probably by the opening up of certain Indian reserve lands to settlement, which took place about this time. In 1795 the General Assembly, which itself only began its existence in 1788, organized the Presbytery of Huntingdon out of territory hitherto belonging to the Presbytery of Carlisle, northward from a certain line. Sixteen years later, May 16th, 1811, was formed the Northumberland Presbytery, by the Synod of Philadelphia, out of territory belonging to Huntingdon\* Presbytery. The act of

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\*See minutes of the respective bodies here referred to.

the Synod of Philadelphia, by which the Presbytery of Northumberland was constituted, as recorded on the first page of the minutes of the new Presbytery, reads thus:

WHEREAS, by a resolution of the Synod of Philadelphia, at their sessions in Philadelphia, May 16th, 1811, the request of the Presbytery of Huntingdon to be divided by the following line, viz.: Beginning at the mouth of the Mahantango Creek,\* proceeding a Northwesterly course, so as to take in the West Branch of the Susquehanna at the line which divides Lycoming and Centre counties, so as to leave to the Eastward the following members, viz.: The Rev'ds Messrs. Asa Dunham, John Bryson, Isaac Grier, John B. Patterson and Thos. Hood and their respective charges, together with the vacant congregations of Great Island, Lycoming and Pine Creek, was granted; and it was further resolved that the above named ministers and congregations be named the Presbytery of Northumberland, and meet at the Presbyterian Church, in Northumberland, on the 1st Tuesday of October next ensuing the date of this resolution, at 11 o'clock A. M.

Presbytery met in pursuance of the above resolution, and was opened by the Rev. Asa Dunham with a sermon from Eph. ii. 5th: "But he is our peace." This passage is not found in the verse here designated, but in the 12th verse of the chapter are these words: "For he is our peace." It is hardly likely that the preacher made the misquotation, but probably the clerk committed an oversight in making up the record.

There were present at this meeting, the five ministers named in the act of the Synod setting apart the Presbytery, and four elders, viz., James Shadden, James Hepburn, Esq., William Montgomery, Esq., and Thomas Howard. The Rev. Asa Dunham was chosen moderator, and the Rev. John B. Patterson was chosen temporary clerk. At a later period of the meeting Mr. Patterson was elected clerk for one year. The Presbytery remained without any ministerial accessions to, or change in its original numbers till 1814. On the 23d day of August, of that year, the Rev. Isaac Grier died at Northumberland. He had been licensed, ordained and installed over the united congregations of Great Island, Pine Creek and Lycoming by the Presbytery of Carlisle,† at Carlisle, in 1793, and commenced his pastoral labors in April of the ensuing year, in which charge he continued twelve years, when he was induced to move to Northumberland and take pastoral charge of the church there, and also of one or more fields in that vicinity. In connec-

\*This creek is in Juniata County, and empties into the Juniata River.

† He was installed in presence of a commission from the charges.

tion with his ministerial work he also took charge of an academy at Northumberland, which was intended by its founders to be fostered into a college, but never reached that dignity. Mr. Grier had opened a classical school in connection with his Pine Creek charge in 1802, which expired with his pastorate of that church, but was resuscitated by his successor, the Rev. John H. Grier. I have recently been informed, by a friend who received the information from a near relative of Mr. Grier, that he was induced to move to Northumberland, and take charge of the academy there, through the agency of Dr. Priestly, the distinguished English Unitarian and scholar, who settled there at an early day; that Dr. Priestly had organized and tried to establish an academy at that place, but the prejudice was so strong against him on account of his well-known Unitarianism, his effort was likely to fail; and finding Presbyterianism to be the prevailing creed of the population from which the main support of such a school must be drawn, and that Presbyterians were pioneers of education as well as the industrious planters of churches, he went to Carlisle to consult the president of the college there as to whom, among the Presbyterian clergy, the enterprise could be entrusted with the largest hope of success, who recommended the Rev. Isaac Grier. Mr. Grier seems to have possessed excellent qualifications for such a position, and having a large family of sons and daughters, it afforded him a desirable opportunity to educate his children, which he availed himself of very successfully. His sons and daughters grew up in possession of excellent educations, and became cultured, useful and influential members of society. Two of his sons adorned Presbyterian pulpits for many years, one was appointed by President Andrew Jackson to a judgeship in the Supreme Court of the United States, in which position he became famous, while the other sons and daughters were useful and honored in their respective spheres in life.

In the same year in which the Rev. Isaac Grier died, 1814, the Rev. Samuel Henderson was received into the Presbytery from the Presbytery of New Castle, at the fall meeting, October 4th, and was installed over the Lycoming Church, at Newberry, at the next stated meeting in April, 1815. This pastorate was not a happy one, nor of long duration. Mr. Henderson was arraigned at the

bar of the Presbytery\* at its spring meeting in 1817, on a charge of conduct derogatory to his ministerial character, and having been found guilty of some of the specifications contained in the charge, was suspended from the functions of the gospel ministry, and dismissed from his pastoral charge. He was, however, restored again to the ministry on giving satisfactory evidence of repentance. He seems to have been a man strongly marked by special weaknesses in certain directions. We find him suspended from the ministry on two separate occasions after this, on similar charges, and restored again the same year in each case, after confessing his sin in open Presbytery and giving satisfactory proof of repentance; though the Synod took exception to the action of the Presbytery in the third case, as too lenient.†

At the April meeting of Presbytery, 1815, John H. Grier, a licentiate of the Presbytery of New Castle, applied to be taken under the care of the Presbytery of Northumberland, at the same time presenting calls from the congregations of Pine Creek and Great Island, each for half his time. He was received after a satisfactory examination, and ordained and installed over these congregations, in August, the same year. Mr. Grier had come into the bounds of the Presbytery in 1814, but had labored as a licentiate in the Pine Creek and Great Island charges till the date above mentioned.‡ He continued to serve the Pine Creek congregation, for half his time, till 1851, when he retired from this pastorate, having resigned that of the Great Island congregation some years before. In the providence of God he became possessed of ample private means for his support, and continued to reside at Jersey Shore, to which place the Pine Creek Church was transferred, and whose name it adopted at the time of his retirement, till his death at the advanced age of about 93 years. Several of his children still survive at this writing, some of whom reside within the vicinity of his life-long field of labor, and some in the far West. He was a man of excellent spirit, of good capacity and a faithful minister of the Word. He wrought a good work in his day, was permitted to enjoy a calm and peaceful evening of life.

\*See old minutes, 1817.

†See old minutes for 1817, and other dates.

‡Old minutes.

"and came to his grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season."

Previous to 1815—for the first four years of its existence—the growth of the Presbytery was small, not exceeding one above its original number, but from this date onward it exhibits a creditable succession of candidates for the ministry coming forth from the families of its own churches. We find the names of Thomas Caldwell, William B. Montgomery, James Thompson, Robert Smith and others—the representatives of families still living in the bounds of the Presbytery, and which have occupied a large and honorable place in both Church and State. William B. Montgomery, licensed in 1816, preached as a Supply to the weak and vacant churches of the Presbytery till 1821, when he was ordained to go as a foreign missionary, under what was then called "The United Foreign Missionary Society." Still the Presbytery was not distinguished in the first decade of its history for rapid growth, either as to its membership or the number of its churches. It commenced its career, in 1811, with five ordained ministers and, as near as can be ascertained, thirteen organized churches; and in 1821 it was composed of seven ministers and, perhaps, fourteen churches. The territory covered by it was sparsely settled, and population increased slowly. Society was in a formative state, and the facilities of life, especially the means and ways of communicating with the world beyond their own valleys and mountains, were primitive and slow. The people for the most part were poor, engaged in making homes for themselves, and money, as a means of exchange, extremely scarce; so that the support of the clergy was limited to a very scant sustenance, and was usually paid in farm produce. When a man subscribed his "stipends," as it was called, or designated the amount he was willing to give for the annual support of his minister, he did so, not in terms of dollars and cents, but of bushels of wheat, rye, corn, oats and barley. And even this was not in every case promptly and willingly paid when it became due; for in the treasurer's records of one church at least, which the writer has been allowed to inspect, several parties are mentioned as having been sued for their stipends, and forced by law to pay what they had subscribed, but refused to deliver to the needy pastor. The highest salary paid in these early times, by any church in the Presbytery,

was estimated at \$575, till in 1813, or 1814, the Rev. Thomas Hood's salary was raised to \$600 by the three churches which he served,\* one of which was the church at Milton, at that time the most prosperous town within the limits of the Presbytery. Even in 1851, when the writer of this sketch became a member of the Presbytery, the highest salary paid to any of its pastors, except one, was \$600; the exception was Dr. John W. Yeomans, pastor of the Mahoning Church at Danville, who received \$800. At that time there was not a parsonage owned or provided for its pastor by any church in the Presbytery. The ministers of the Presbytery, at the time now under review, were largely engaged in foundation work: their labors and hardships were many and arduous, their comforts few and meagre, and their self-denials constant and trying in the extreme. Yet they toiled on, patiently laying foundations for those to build on who should come after them. They not only wrought patiently and industriously, but wisely also, and the most of them much better, as to the future, than they knew. All the five original members of the Presbytery continued to labor within its bounds till the close of their respective lives, a few of them reaching an unusual old age; and the descendants of some of them are still to be found in several of the churches of the Presbytery, useful Christians, honorable and honored citizens.

During the first twenty years of the existence of the Presbytery, before public improvements, such as canals, railroads and telegraph lines had penetrated this interior region of the State, there were few changes wrought in either the aspect of the country or the social condition of the people. In 1818 we find recorded in the minutes of the Presbytery an effort in the line of temperance. This was probably the earliest dawn of the temperance reformation that broke on this region of Pennsylvania. It was an effort at self-reformation on the part of the clergy, and doubtless it had no inconsiderable influence in preparing the way for future efforts to reform the people. The record reads thus: "Resolved, unanimously, that the use of ardent spirits be excluded from our meetings in the future." This action was taken long before the general temperance reformation had made any appreciable progress in the community at large, and was probably suggested to these fathers

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\*See minutes of this date.

of the Presbytery by the disastrous effects of the universally prevalent habit of using intoxicating drinks among the people. It was a wise procedure, the best expedient and strongest argument that could be proposed for the breaking up of old-time customs and the reformation of vicious practices that had become prevalent among the people. It showed keen foresight on the part of these teachers and leaders of the people; they could now preach temperance, as well as righteousness, without being rebuked with the chilling, terrible taunt, "Physician, heal thyself." Still the effort at temperance reformation advanced slowly. In 1826 the Presbytery passed a resolution "lamenting the common daily, though it be the temperate, use of ardent spirits."\* Again, in 1828, it was resolved "that a paper, binding total abstinence on the part of the signers, be presented to the members of this Presbytery and others for signatures."† It is refreshing to notice the solid progress made by the temperance reformation among these fathers when the use of ardent spirits was a common, in fact, a universal and popular habit. Light broke in upon them slowly and gradually, but every forward step they took was sure. It required ten years to advance from the banishing of ardent spirits from their Presbyterian meetings to the idea of total abstinence.

As early as 1817 Presbytery seems to have found itself called on to guard its members against mutual ministerial discourtesies, by passing the following resolution, viz.:

Presbytery, after deliberation, resolved, that it is disorderly in any member to perform pastoral duties within the bounds, or respecting the members of any congregation of which he is not the pastor, without the request of the minister, or session, or, if vacant, of the elders of said congregation, or except by appointment of Presbytery.‡

There must have arisen some serious occasion for such a deliverance, though none appears on the records. This is as good common sense as it is sound Presbyterian order.

In 1818 an unusual interest in missions was awakened in the Presbytery from some cause not apparent on the records, but probably through the sympathetic influence of the reviving spirit of missions which began to manifest itself throughout the Presbyterian

\*See the minutes for that year.

†See page 242, old minutes.

‡See page 66, old minutes.



Church in the United States about this time—the forerunner of that marvelous activity in this direction which distinguishes the Church at the present day. A general convention was ordered by Presbytery to be called at Milton, in which the Associate Reformed, and the Reformed Dutch were invited to join the Presbyterians. A public address on the subject of missions was issued by a committee appointed by Presbytery; and the first Monday of each month was set apart as a day for concert of prayer in behalf of missions, and ordered to be observed by the churches. From this time onward the cause of missions, both domestic and foreign, has lain very near the hearts of many of God's people within the churches of this Presbytery; and though for some years its progress seemed slow, and contributions to it were limited, yet it retained its hold on the affections of the people, and little by little accumulated an influence which, in these later years, has developed itself into something wonderful, with the promise of increasing growth for the time to come. Much of the credit for the progress of, and the continually increasing interest in, the cause of missions is due to the women of the churches under the care of the Presbytery. They have always taken a lively interest in this cause, and of late years have infused into it a new life and a marvelous energy, as if they were penetrated with the fullest conviction of the truth, "To whom much is given, of them is much required." They are worthy of all praise for their labor of love, and may hope to receive the Master's approbation in the language: "Well done, good and faithful servants."

In 1825 the Rev. George Junkin, an Associate Reformed minister, belonging to the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia, and preaching to the Associate Reformed congregations called Shilo and Penniel, the one located in Milton and the other in Warrior Run, applied to be admitted to the Presbytery of Northumberland, the Second Associate Presbytery of Philadelphia having become extinct. His application was cordially granted, and henceforth he became identified with that branch of the Presbyterian family represented by the General Assembly. This was an important acquisition of strength. Mr., afterwards Dr., George Junkin was a man of distinguished endowments and great zeal. He could not be associated with any body of men long without making his influence felt, and communicating something of his own spirit to those

with whom he acted. Accordingly we notice, soon after his entrance into the Presbytery, a more quickened spirit, a larger range of purpose, and a more energetic prosecution of all the objects which lie within the scope of Presbyterial supervision. He did not remain long a member of the Presbytery. His active zeal for the Master's cause, his untiring energy and enterprising nature found a more congenial and fruitful field of labor in the educational department of church work. The Church and the country have received a valuable legacy from his splendid life, in the establishment and fruits of Lafayette College, which, in its conspicuous position, will remain a monument of the wisdom and worth of this Godly man in the long future. He was the father of Lafayette College, without dispute, while, as the president successively of Miami University, Ohio, and Washington College, Virginia, his labors have distributed their rich fruits over a wide extent of country. At the same meeting of Presbytery at which Mr. Junkin was received, the two churches of which he was pastor were also received and enrolled at his request, the congregations having authorized the transfer.

In 1827 the Mifflinburg Church, which had also belonged to the Second Associate Reformed Presbytery of Philadelphia, was received under the care of this Presbytery, and remains on its roll to this day, while we hear no more of Shilo and Penniel.\* At the same date the Rev. David Kirkpatrick, who was either the pastor or stated supply of the Mifflinburg Church, was received into the Presbytery. He also had been a member of the Second Associate Presbytery of Philadelphia. Mr. Kirkpatrick had attained a distinguished reputation as a classical teacher, and he was possessed of a force of character which made him a valuable member of Presbytery. He had charge of the academy at Milton, and instructed a generation of men who have acted a prominent part in the Church and the State, some of whom arose to honor and distinction. His memory is held in high esteem by his old pupils, some of whom still survive at the date of this writing.

In 1828 a discussion arose in Presbytery involving several topics which excited unusual interest among the people, and was finally concluded with the passing of seven resolutions embodying the sentiments of the body on the whole subject of the discussion. It

\* Penniel was dropped from the roll of Presbytery, having ceased to report.

may not be amiss to transcribe these resolutions here, as they relate to matters of permanent interest in the Church. They are as follows, viz.:

I. *Resolved*, In the judgment of this Presbytery, according to the standards of the Presbyterian Church, and the word of God, no parents have the right to present their children for baptism, but those who for themselves make a credible profession of faith in Christ, and obedience to Him, and evidence the same by obeying His dying commandment when His providence shall afford opportunity.

II. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Presbytery, the practice of private baptism, except in extreme cases, is contrary to the word of God and to the standards of the Presbyterian Church.

III. *Resolved*, That according to the word of God and the standards of the Presbyterian Church, an adult, in order to his right reception into the Christian Church, must be acquainted at least with the leading doctrines of revelation as they are set forth in the standards of this Church; must be able to give a reason for the hope that is in him, by showing that these doctrines have operated on his experience; must make an open, unequivocal avowal of the Redeemer's name, and must be vigilant in the habitual discharge of his religious and moral duties.

IV. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Presbytery, the form of government and the Bible make it the duty and exclusive right of the Church Session to examine candidates for sealing ordinances on doctrinal and practical religion, and if satisfied with these and their moral conduct, to admit them to membership and communion.

V. *Resolved*, That Sessions ought to inquire at the hands of families directly whether family worship is observed or not, and by no means to admit either to the table of the Lord or to baptism for their children any by whom it is habitually neglected.

VI. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Presbytery, the moral turpitude of false and faithless vows of parents at the baptism of their children, and of unhallowed approach to the Lord's table, in all cases where the knowledge of facts would enable and justify the Session in preventing it, lies upon every member of Session in possession of that knowledge as well as upon the persons more obviously criminal.

VII. *Resolved*, That sound judgment, familiar acquaintance with scripture doctrine, piety and prayer, with a capacity to rule, are indispensable qualifications for the office of Ruling Elder, and where these cannot be found, that people are not ready to be organized into a church.

These resolutions will bear critical inspection. They go down to the roots of the subjects involved in them; they bring the duty of church officials into plain view, and supply the motive to perform it. It would not be unwholesome to pastors, however distasteful it might prove, nor to churches, for Presbyteries to repeat such or similar resolutions often.

## PART II.

In the preceding pages we have traced the history of the Presbytery down to 1831, noting all that seems worthy of record. In the old minutes of that year we find a record entitled the "Crisis." It has exclusive reference to controversies which arose out of the spread of Hopkinsianism in the Presbyterian Church, as then constituted in the United States, and which resulted in the division of the Church into "New School" and "Old School,"—a division which continued to afflict the Presbyterian Church throughout the country till 1869, when the wound was healed by a reunion, which it is fondly hoped will never be disrupted by a similar cause in the future. The Presbytery of Northumberland, as might have been expected from the names of those who composed its membership at that date, was unanimous in its condemnation of the new phase of theology and the new measures sought to be imposed on the Presbyterian Church, and was by no means sparing of the forcible terms by which its condemnation was expressed. And when, in 1838, the actual "crisis" came, and the Church was divided into two General Assemblies, there was no uncertain sound in the deliverances of this Presbytery touching the matter, or hesitation as to which Assembly its allegiance should be given. The ministers and people of the Presbyterian Church, within the limits of this Presbytery, were so thoroughly saturated with Presbyterianism of the Scotch-Irish type that no new phases of theology, and no new schemes of church polity and extension, and no change of practice concerning human slavery and the way it should be treated by Christian churches, could find the slightest favor among them. Within the whole territory covered by the Presbytery there was not a New School church to be found, save one, which became such from other causes than sympathy with the new movement. The sensitiveness, and the decisive action of the Presbytery touching this matter show a strength of orthodoxy as firmly established as the hills and mountains among which it had fixed its abode. A minute consisting of a lengthy preamble, in which considerable alarm is expressed at the peril to which the Church was exposed by the efforts of certain parties to propagate the errors involved in this new movement, and all the faithful people of the churches,

both officers and laymen, are earnestly exhorted to shun and oppose them, followed by eleven elaborate resolutions, in which the objectionable features of the movement are clearly defined and strongly denounced, was passed and recorded with entire unanimity.\*

The wisdom of the Presbytery in siding with the Old School Assembly cannot be doubted; indeed it seems almost inconceivable that men bred to Presbyterianism and thoroughly educated in its tenets, as they were, could have taken any other ground. For the new movement involved a serious departure from the established theological views of the Presbyterian Church, threatened the subversion of her polity and sought to commit her to an aggressive policy touching the institution of slavery, which had a legal status in the land. It has been said that the first two of these elements of discord were only of secondary importance; that if the question of slavery had been out of the way all other differences could have been reconciled and the division of the Church would not have taken place. We are satisfied that neither facts nor logic sustain this view of the case. For while the New School body, after the division, became distinctively anti-slavery, the Old School never was positively pro-slavery, but always adhered to a prudent conservatism concerning the institution of slavery. On the other hand, the theological differences of the two bodies, as developed in the controversy, were wide apart and could never have found a common ground on which they could meet in harmony. The followers of Calvin and Knox never could join hands and hearts with the disciples of Hopkins, the modern "Sabellians, running into Socinianism," as the old minute above referred to describes them. A separation was the best cure for the existing sore. And the event has proved that the infected body was purified by a thirty-two years' quarantine, and now, restored to perfect theological soundness, can live and labor in loving brotherhood and cordial harmony with the defenders of undoubted Evangelical doctrines, themselves among the foremost champions "of the faith once delivered to the saints."

Apart from the subject just presented we find very little in the records of Presbytery worthy of special notice for several years.

\*See old minutes, pages 295-300.

The regular routine of business was carefully attended to at two stated meetings, with occasional adjourned and called meetings. Churches were organized and enrolled as occasion required; candidates for the ministry were educated, some of whom received aid from the churches through the Presbytery, and a gradual and solid increase of the number of ministers and churches is noticeable. In 1833 the number of ministers in the Presbytery was double the number at its organization in 1811—the five had become ten; the number of elders enrolled at its meetings had increased in a greater ratio.

About this date the cause of missions, both home and foreign, came into somewhat prominent notice. The Presbytery had not been indifferent to the subject before, but about this time a new interest sprang up in the churches and among the ministers, which developed into some fruitfulness. Mr. William B. Montgomery, a licentiate of the Presbytery, had been ordained to go on a foreign mission under the auspices of the Foreign Missionary Society, organized and located at Pittsburg a few years earlier. To what country or people he was destined, or whether he ever entered on the work, or where or when he died, we find no record of.\* In 1833 Mr. Matthew Laird, a licentiate of the Presbytery, was ordained to go on a mission to Africa. He seems to have been a man well qualified by abilities and attainments for such an undertaking, and of excellent spirit. The churches of the Presbytery were assessed for the full amount of his support, according to their ability to give, and Mr. Laird went to Africa the ensuing year, where he died of the African fever, which has proved so fatal to many devoted men and women who have attempted to carry the gospel into the Dark Continent, about the time he was prepared to enter practically on the work of his mission. In 1837 Mr. William C. Hamilton, a member of the Pine Creek Church (now Jersey Shore), a licentiate of this Presbytery, was ordained to go as a missionary among the American Indians of the Northwest. He was a young man of fine abilities and much promise, and cheerfully consecrated himself to the arduous and self-denying work of teaching and preaching the gospel to the aborigines of our country, especially the Omahas, on whom the most of his labors have been expended:

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\*See full account in the sketch of Mahoning Church.

in which work he is still engaged at this writing, 1887, having attained the advanced age of considerable more than three-score years and ten, but in full possession of his faculties and efficiently serving the cause to which he consecrated his life in his youth.

We have noticed the jealous adherence of the Presbytery to the *standards* of the Church, when the controversy which resulted in the division into New and Old School arose. It would not, perhaps, be amiss to note that when, in 1834, the "Act and Testimony," as it was called, was published, and the various ecclesiastical bodies of the Church were solicited to sign or declare their adoption of it, a committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Bryson and Kirkpatrick, ministers, and A. D. Hepburn, elder, to bring in a minute or report thereon. On the presentation of this committee's paper, which very firmly sustained, and earnestly recommended the measure, all the ministers, licentiates and ruling elders of the Presbytery were called on to sign that document, which seems to have been done with a hearty unanimity.

As the years passed on the original constituent members of the Presbytery began, one by one, to drop out of sight. Having finished their toilsome tasks of laying foundations for others to build on, and exhausted their physical energies in the labor, they were taken, each in his turn, by the ever considerate Master, whom they served, into the "rest that remaineth for the people of God," while their works do follow, still proclaiming, "Well done, good and faithful servants." We have noticed that the Rev. Isaac Grier died in 1814. He was the first of the five to enter into his reward. He finished his work at the comparatively early age of 51 years, having been born in 1763; but he did a good and praiseworthy work, and his memory is still reverently cherished.

In 1825, the 6th day of November, the Rev. Asa Dunham died, aged about 73 years, having been born in 1752. He received both his classical and theological education at New Brunswick, N. J., of which State he was a native. He is called the senior member of the Presbytery in the old minutes, and seems to have been an active, liberal-minded and useful man. He took an active part in the establishment of Princeton Theological Seminary, and acted as an agent for it, collecting funds for its use, and in other ways aiding its interests.

In May, 1843, John B. Patterson died, aged 71 years. He was born in Lancaster County, Pa., in 1773; received his preparatory training under the Rev. N. W. Semple, at Strasburg, in his native county, graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, studied theology with Rev. N. W. Semple, was licensed by the Presbytery of New Castle in 1797, ordained in 1799 by the Presbytery of Huntingdon and installed over the churches of Mahoning and Derry. He left several children, of whom one of the sons became a minister of the gospel, and preached within and beyond the limits of this Presbytery till a recent date, when he was called to his heavenly rest.

The Rev. Thomas Hood died March 17th, 1848, aged 67 years. He was born in Chester County, Pa., in 1781, graduated at Dickinson College in 1798, studied theology under Rev. Nathan Grier, of Brandywine Manor, Chester County, licensed by the Presbytery of New Castle in 1802, ordained by the Presbytery of Huntingdon in 1804 and installed pastor of the churches of Buffalo and Washington. He was installed pastor of the church at Milton in 1812, in connection with his charges of Buffalo and Washington, for one-fourth of his time, but soon resigned the Washington part of his charge and confined his labors to Buffalo and Milton. Mr. Hood was for forty-three years a member of this Presbytery. He seems to have been a man of more than ordinary gifts and attainments, and won not only the respect, but also the strong attachment of those among whom he labored in the gospel. Of his immediate family no knowledge has fallen in our way, but we have knowledge of some of his connections of the same name who have been very successful, liberal and useful business men and active Christians.

The Rev. John Bryson was the last of these worthy Presbyters to pass away. He lived to the unusual age of about 97 years. He was born in January, 1758, and died August 3d, 1855. He pursued his education, preparatory for college, under that eminent and popular teacher of those early times, the Rev. Dr. Waddell, of Virginia, and received his college education at Dickinson College, Carlisle, being a member of the first class that graduated from that institution. His theological studies were pursued at Mercersburg, Franklin County, Pa., under the direction of Rev. Drs. King and



Cooper. He was licensed in 1789 by the Presbytery of Carlisle, and in 1790 was called to, ordained, and installed as pastor over the Warrior Run and Chillisquaque congregations. He was a faithful, active, useful servant of Christ. He wrought a good work in his day, and left his impress on the community to which he ministered. The memory of the just is blessed. Some of his descendants are still to be found at Williamsport, within the bounds of the Presbytery, doing good service for the Master to whom he consecrated so long a lifetime.

It is a notable historical fact that sentiments supposed to involve important moral considerations, and laws founded on these sentiments and regarded as of clearly revealed authority, and of the most far-reaching influence on the well-being of society in one age, sink into insignificance and lose all their sacredness and force in another, and gradually become obsolete. This change never takes place without a struggle, more or less earnest. The human mind cannot let go its hold on moral ideas, whether they be true or false, but by a gradual process of cogitation, nor does the change always involve, or depend on an increase of knowledge touching the subject matter. The law of the Presbyterian Church forbidding marriages within certain degrees of relationship by affinity was enforced less than fifty years ago with considerable rigidity, and was regarded by men of reputation for sound thinking to be solidly founded on revealed truth. But now that law has become almost a dead letter in the Presbyterian Church, as represented by the General Assembly in the United States, and it is doubtful if any Presbytery or Synod, or the General Assembly itself, would entertain a case of discipline for its violation. In 1844 the Presbytery of Northumberland censured the Rev. James Williamson for marrying a man to his niece by affinity, and the Rev. D. M. Barber for marrying a man to his deceased wife's sister.\* Ten years later they refused to censure a member for doing what Mr. Barber was censured for,† and now such marriages pass unchallenged, although the law has neither been as yet modified or repealed. Whether the Church has acted wisely and scripturally in these premises is a matter for theologians to determine; it is quite

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\* See Presbyterial minutes for 1844.

† See minutes of 1854.

certain she has no more light touching the subject than our forefathers had.

For many years, till within a recent date, this subject was frequently and sometimes very ably discussed in all the Church courts, and various overtures were sent up to the General Assembly by Synods and Presbyteries: some in favor of the absolute repeal of the law, some for its modification, and others against meddling with it in any way, but to enforce it as far as possible. In 1886 the General Assembly sent down an overture touching this subject, which has been passed by the Presbyteries and will be declared to be the amended law of the Church by the Assembly of this present year, 1887. How far this act will terminate differences of opinion on the subject of marriages within certain degrees of kindredship by affinity, and lead to uniform practice among the ministry, time alone will reveal.

The law, as it has hitherto been, reads thus:

Marriage ought not to be within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden in the word; (1) nor can such incestuous marriages ever be made lawful by any law of man or consent of parties so as those persons may live together as man and wife. (2) The man may not marry any of his wife's kindred nearer in blood than he may of his own, nor the woman of her husband's kindred nearer than of her own.

The law, as amended, leaves out the last period, viz.: "The man may not marry any of his wife's kindred nearer in blood than he may of his own, nor the woman of her husband's kindred nearer in blood than of her own." This throws the whole question of the degrees of kindredship within which people may marry out of the ecclesiastical sphere, and remits it wholly to the State, to be determined by the civil law. Whether it will conserve the best interest of society, the discriminating historian of the distant future will be able to decide.

From 1863 to 1870 we find in the records and documents of the Presbytery no incidents or events worthy of special notice, except an item touching the validity of the acting eldership on removal from one congregation to another, or defining the ground on which the right of a ruling elder to act in a particular congregation rests. In 1854 or 1855 a case of discipline occurred in the Muncy Church, of which the Rev. John Smalley was then pastor. The church was small and had been considerably distracted from various causes.

It had, at this time, but two acting elders, and one of these had only recently moved within the bounds of the congregation from a neighboring congregation. He was duly elected to act as a ruling elder in the Muncy Church, but was not formally installed. He sat in the judicial case with the other elder, and voted on all the questions that came before the court. Each of these elders, also, was a witness in the case, and was in his turn on the witness stand, while the other, together with the moderator, constituted the court. As both these witnesses were opposed to the defendant, his conviction was a foregone conclusion. An appeal was carried up to the Synod of Philadelphia, in session at Hollidaysburg. The Synod pronounced the action of session invalid, as also the Presbytery had done. It was carried up to the General Assembly and the decision of the Synod was sustained. The installation of elders had been, previously to this date, wholly overlooked, in fact no distinction was made between ordination and installation. When an elder who had been ordained was chosen to act in a particular congregation, the election was supposed to authorize him to act without further formality. Henceforth it became the uniform practice, as it had always been the law of the Presbyterian Church, to install ordained elders when, on removing from one congregation to another, they are chosen to discharge the office of elder in that particular congregation—the installation being as necessary as his ordination to the validity of his acts.

The decade from 1860 to 1870 was a period of great excitement throughout the country. The civil war began in 1861, after a heated Presidential canvass, which agitated the nation as it never had been agitated before, and this excitement was greatly intensified by the breaking out of hostilities between the two great sections of the country—North and South—and continued to increase as the conflict advanced. Nor did it cease when the war came to a close. The efforts to reconcile the conflicting elements of society, reduce antagonizing interests to harmony and establish peace and good will between the people, North and South, were often rudely frustrated, and instead of binding up and mollifying the wound, only aggravated it; so that throughout this decade the popular mind was like a seething caldron, boiling over with excitement. New political issues constantly arose, exciting the fears and worst

apprehension of the people—a condition of things most unfavorable to religious progress; yet, notwithstanding all this, the Presbytery held on its way successfully. The ministers, with a few insignificant exceptions, were very pronounced in their loyalty to the Government while the war lasted, and prudently did what they could to conciliate opposing views and harmonize conflicting interests among the people in the after troubles. The Presbytery, and the churches under its care, passed through a trying ordeal, but nothing was lost, and the cause of the Master held on its way unfalteringly, supported by the wisdom, power and grace of Him whose kingdom ruleth over all.

The reunion, in 1869, of the two branches of the Presbyterian Church in the United States—New and Old School—led to a general reorganization of Presbyteries and Synods throughout the bounds of the reunited General Assembly. As a result of the changes thus inaugurated, the Synod of Harrisburg was organized at Bellefonte in June, 1870, composed of the Presbyteries of Carlisle, Huntingdon, Northumberland and Wellsboro. At the same date the Presbytery was reorganized and made to consist of all the ministers and churches within the territorial limits of the counties of Clinton, Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union, Cameron and Lycoming.\* The Rev. J. C. Watson, D. D., was made presiding officer till a new moderator should be elected, and constituted the Presbytery by prayer. The Rev. William Sterling was chosen moderator, and the Rev. William Simonton was chosen stated clerk. By this reunion and reorganization of ecclesiastical bodies, the Presbytery of Northumberland received the important and influential Second Church of Williamsport, which had belonged to the New School body; and the New and Old School churches of Northumberland were consolidated and became one. No other changes were made in its constituency.

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.)

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THE first store in what is now Potter County was opened in 1825 in Lymansville, by Dr. Henry Lyman.

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\*Lycoming County is not mentioned in the enabling act, as recorded in the minutes of Presbytery.

## INDIAN FAMINE IN 1748.

[In the Summer of 1748, the Moravian Indian missionaries, John Martin Mack and David Zeisberger, visited the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna. From the diary of Mack the following extracts have been taken, treating of the famine then prevailing among the Indians.]

1748, July 9.—Set out from Shamokin, and by evening reached the spot where Bishop Spangenberg and party lodged on their way to Onondaga.\*

July 10.—About noon reached Otstonwaken, and found it entirely deserted; so we journeyed on. At night tormented by punks and mosquitoes, despite the five fires between which we lay down to sleep.

July 11.—Resumed our journey, and at noon came to some Indian huts, but found them empty. We passed many empty huts to-day. Crossed a branch of the Susquehanna, and also to an island, where we found a few deserted huts. Brother Mack climbed into a tree to look out for some human being—for the grass and weeds were so high as to intercept all view—and saw an Indian at a distance. He descended and made for the point, where he found a hut in which an old woman and some others were down with the small-pox. On asking where the Indians of this region were, he was told that many had died of small-pox and others had been driven by famine to the white settlements. We learned that this district was called Long Island,† and nearly all who dwell here (and the number is not small) are Delawares. One of the Indian men knew Brother Mack well, having met him at Shamokin. He was friendly, showed us the way to Great Island, and regretted he had nothing to give us to eat.

Towards evening reached Great Island,‡ and found Indians at home, residing on this side of the island. They asked us from whence we came, and whether we had ought to sell. When told

\* See *Pennsylvania Magazine of History*, Vol. I., p. 431.

† Situated in the river opposite the borough of Jersey Shore. It originally consisted of one large, fine farm of 174 acres, but in later years it was divided into two.

‡ This famous island lies in the river a short distance east of Lock Haven. It is often called Dunn's Island.

that we were not traders, but had only come to visit them, it was incomprehensible to them. But a few old squaws were living on the island; the men had been driven away by famine. We consequently remained on this side of the island, and asked an Indian whether we could lodge in his hut. He took us in cordially, and spread a bear skin for us to sleep on; but he had nothing for us to eat. Ascertained that he was a Five Nation Indian, and his wife a Shawanese; whereupon Brother Zeisberger conversed with him. His father, who is upwards of seventy years, was dying of small-pox, and was a most pitiable object. His case and that of the Indians here enlisted our sympathies and silent prayers.

In the evening we were visited by a number of Indians, Shawanese and Cayugas. Here dwell in three houses Shawanese, Maquas and Delawares; among the latter an Indian from Albany who spoke Low Dutch. In all three houses were cases of small-pox. In one hut hung a kettle in which grass was being stewed, which they ate with avidity.

July 12.—Brother Zeisberger learned from our host that many Indians passed and repassed his hut. To-day he brought out some dried venison and gave us some, and we in turn gave his child some of our bread, for which they were very thankful.

In the afternoon told our host we desired to visit the island to see the Indians there, and he unasked went with us, and led us to all the huts. We found some clever people here who had just returned from the woods, and who shared with us grapes, green and hard, which they ate with avidity. We prayed silently to the Lord to have mercy on this people.

Returned to our lodgings, and our host again asked us why we had come so far, and had we not come in search of land? He said there was fine land in the neighborhood. We explained that was not our object.

July 13.—We found an opportunity to speak to our host of the Saviour. He had heard somewhat of God, and said he believed what we had told him was good and true. He then gave us some dried venison and we in return some needles and thread to his wife.

Set out on our return down the Susquehanna. At night camped on a large flat by a creek, ate some mouldy bread, the last of our stock, and built four fires to keep off the vermin.

July 14.—Arose early. Brother David (Zeisberger) caught some fish, which we cooked. At noon reached Otstonwaken,\* where we speared a large fish with a pointed stick. This we took to our camp, which was on a high bank of the Susquehanna, where Bishop Spangenberg and company had dined on the way to Onondaga in 1745, and ate the fish for supper.

July 15.—Set out early and at noon came to a spot where Spangenberg had passed the night on his return from Onondaga, and at evening reached Shamokin.

Mack and his companion remained in Shamokin until July 22, when they traveled up the North Branch, visiting the Indian towns along the river to Wapwallopen, crossed the mountain to Gnadenhutten, and from thence to Bethlehem, arriving there July 30th.

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A NEW town called Lopez has been started in Sullivan County, and the Dushore *Review* thus sketches its history: "Years ago, when the old Berwick turnpike was in course of construction, John R. Lopez was employed by the company as a laborer and his good wife kept boarding house, moving along the line as section after section was completed. At what is now known as Lopez Hill, John Lopez was engaged one day in removing a blast that had failed to explode. In some manner he exploded the charge of powder while sitting prone upon the rock, and was hurled into the air along with the shattered boulder. He was not seriously hurt, and the place took the name of Lopez Rock or Lopez Hill, and the creek took its name from the hill, and now the rapidly growing town gets its name from the creek. Mr. Lopez took land in payment for his labor and settled on Sugar Hill, living to an advanced age. He was the grandfather of Green Henly, of Cherry. This is the history of the naming of Lopez."

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DID a tribe of the Andastes once inhabit this valley? It is the opinion of Indian antiquarians that they did, judging from the peculiar remains of fortifications found here at different points one hundred years ago.

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\*The borough of Montoursville, Lycoming County, is partly built on the site of Otstonwaken.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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WILLIAMSPORT, JANUARY, 1888.

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## HISTORY OF THE WEST BRANCH VALLEY.

Although it was stated in the October number of *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL* that the author had determined not to republish the History of the West Branch Valley in book form, we are still importuned, by letter and otherwise, to reproduce it in some form. Several friends have suggested its republication as the second volume of *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL*, in monthly parts. This plan is more feasible than any that has been presented, and we are disposed to give it careful consideration, inasmuch as there seems to be such a desire on the part of a great many people for the reproduction of the old history of thirty-one years ago, and we submit the following plan:

I. If seven hundred subscribers can be secured we will agree to republish the work handsomely in monthly parts, of forty pages each, beginning with the May number, 1888, and ending with the April number, 1889.

II. The work will be carefully revised and much new matter added, both in the text and by foot-notes or annotations, which will greatly increase its value.

III. The style of the original work will be preserved, and the curious old documents will be reproduced in their order.

IV. The price will be \$3 for twelve numbers, payable in advance when the first number is issued. There will be no other matter introduced to interfere with the history, so that when the



last page is printed the book of about 500 pages will be complete, and subscribers can have the numbers bound in a volume to suit their fancy. The present monthly only consists of thirty-two pages. Under the proposed plan the work would be fully one hundred pages larger, with a corresponding increase in cost. The book cannot be published any cheaper, without loss to the author.

V. If this proposition is not accepted by a sufficient number to warrant the undertaking, it is not likely that the book will be reproduced, and must pass out of existence. The author cannot afford to republish it in any other way. If those who are anxious to have it republished will at once inform the author of their willingness to subscribe, the enterprise may be undertaken. If not, THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL will be continued under the present form.

VI. A limited edition—not exceeding 800 copies—on account of the heavy cost, will be printed; and as it will not be stereotyped, the book will be out of print when the last copy is disposed of. No agents will be employed; subscribers must order direct from the publisher, who will mail the numbers to them postpaid. The question of republication must be settled between this time and the middle of March, when the present volume of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL will be completed.

Now, friends, if you are in earnest in this matter, let us hear from you at once, so that your names may be enrolled, in order to determine if a sufficient number can be obtained.

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THE first instalment of Dr. Stevens' *History of the Presbytery of Northumberland* appears in this issue of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL, and we take pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to it. Those interested in local history, and especially the history of this famous old Presbytery, cannot fail to be interested and instructed on reading it. The part which appears in this issue is about one-fourth of the work, and the balance will be printed in the three succeeding numbers. As this is the first history of the Presbytery ever written, it doubtless will attract more than ordinary attention. The writer devoted much time and labor to its preparation, and he certainly has succeeded in collecting and arranging in chronological order a history that will prove valuable

to those who desire to know something of the privations endured by the pioneer clergymen engaged in founding Presbyterianism in this beautiful valley of the Susquehanna, and its adjoining territory.

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THE picture of the old Williamsport Academy, which appears as the frontispiece, will revive pleasant memories in the minds of many of our older readers. The Williamsport Academy was incorporated by act of the Legislature April 2d, 1811, and \$2,000 out of the State Treasury appropriated for the school. All the members of the first board of trustees, eight in number, are now dead. The first teacher in the Academy was Rev. Samuel Henderson, a Presbyterian. He had a number of successors, as school was carried on there until 1835. The building is of brick, and octagonal in form. It has long been occupied as a dwelling house and is still in a good state of preservation.

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#### LITERARY NOTES.

JOHN P. DWYER, who has been publishing the *Renovo Evening News* very successfully for over four years, will soon start a weekly paper. Mr. Dwyer has shown much enterprise and pluck in publishing his daily, and no doubt he will issue a bright and sparkling weekly.

THE first volume of the *Historical Record*, issued from the office of the Wilkes-Barre daily *Record*, has been completed. It is composed of local and biographical articles relating to the Wyoming Valley and contiguous territory, and is an exceedingly valuable monthly publication. Dr. F. C. Johnson is the editor, and nothing of local historical interest escapes his attention. The *Record* is published at the low rate of \$1.50 per annum, and when the twelve numbers are bound they will make a compact volume of over 225 pages. We take pleasure in recommending it as one of the very best publications of its kind in the State.

DR. W. H. EGLE, State Librarian, has published the second series of his *Notes and Queries* in book form, and it is needless to add that the work is of rare value. As a collector of local genealogical and biographical information, Dr. Egle is not excelled by any one in Pennsylvania, and his works will not only be a splendid

monument to his industry and genius, but of incalculable value to future local historians.

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### NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

J. EMERY, ESQ., of Williamsport, celebrated the 86th anniversary of his birth on the 30th of November, 1887. He was born at Canterbury, New Hampshire, November 30, 1801. Besides his profession of the law, Mr. Emery has devoted much time to scientific studies, and for a long time he has been engaged in the preparation of a historical descriptive catalogue of all the earthquakes that have occurred on the American continent since its settlement by the Anglo-Saxon race. Mr. Emery enjoys good health, and his mind is as vigorous and active as it was fifty years ago.

MRS. ELIZABETH BADGER, of Lock Haven, was 87 years old on the 15th of November, 1887. The *Express* thinks she is the oldest woman in that city. She was born in Northumberland County, November 15th, 1800, and is the widow of the late John Badger. For sixteen years she has been a resident of Lock Haven, having removed there from Mill Hall in 1871. She had for a number of years resided in Centre County, having lived near Jacksonville, and later in Bellefonte. This venerable lady is the only one living of a large family of brothers and sisters. She had four children, all of whom are dead except the daughter with whom she resides.

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### RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

THE venerable John Warner, of whom mention was made in the September number, died at his home at Pennsville, November 12th, 1887, aged 90 years, 3 months and 25 days. Mr. Warner had lived from birth to death in the township where he was born. Reared upon a farm, the long years of his life were given to agricultural pursuits. He was a consistent and beloved member of the Society of Friends and bore the respect and esteem of his friends and neighbors to the close of his earthly pilgrimage.

THOMAS MYERS, who died at his home in Williamsport, Saturday evening, December 3d, 1887, was a man who had an interesting history. He was born in a log house which stood almost on the

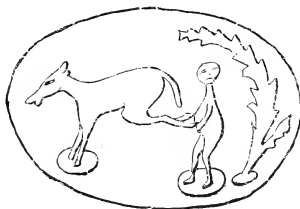
site of Forty Fort, Wyoming Valley, February 15th, 1802. From this it will be seen that he was well along in his 86th year. His father, who was named Philip, came from Germany when he was but six years of age and landed at Baltimore. He was but a boy when the Revolutionary war broke out, but he promptly joined the provincial forces and fought at the battle of Germantown at the age of fifteen. He was with General Sullivan in his famous expedition against the Indians in 1779. Thomas Myers' mother was named Martha Bennett, and she was in the fort at the time of the Wyoming massacre. She was about fifteen years of age and was among the few who escaped. Philip Myers, at the close of the war, settled in Wyoming Valley and soon afterwards married Miss Bennett. They were blessed with five sons and five daughters, Thomas, the subject of this sketch, being the youngest son. He commenced life as a farmer in 1824, and in 1825 married Miss Barbige. The fruits of this marriage were one son and one daughter, both of whom reside in Chicago. In 1844 Mrs. Myers died. About a year afterwards Mr. Myers married Miss E. C. Vanderbelt, a daughter of the well known Peter Vanderbelt, of Williamsport. They had four sons, only one of whom survives. Thomas Myers became quite a politician and was elected sheriff of Luzerne County in 1835. At that time Luzerne took in the territory now embraced in the counties of Wyoming and Lackawanna. During his administration the difficulties arose in the Legislature which culminated in the calling out of the militia. It is known in history as the "Buckshot War." Sheriff Myers was in Harrisburg the day the troops arrived and drove the revolutionary members of the Legislature out of the State House. On the completion of his term he settled in Kingston in 1838 and engaged in mercantile pursuits. He was also appointed postmaster soon afterwards. He prospered in business and became the owner of considerable real estate. During the contest for the location of Wyoming Seminary between Kingston and Wilkes-Barre, he settled it by donating the ground on which to found the institution, and in March, 1844, he commenced the erection of the first building for the school out of his own means. It was completed and dedicated the 20th of September of that year, the celebrated Dr. Durbin conducting the ceremonies. He always took a deep interest in the school, and it

is probable that his donations, if measured by the standard of dollars and cents, would exceed \$50,000. He was also engaged in many other enterprises. He finally located in Williamsport in 1875 and made this place his permanent home. On last Thanksgiving Day he was stricken with paralysis, and as he did not rally he quietly passed away at the time noted above.

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### TOMBSTONE RECORD.

Many years ago the following illustrated epitaph, on a headstone in the old Ross Park Cemetery, Williamsport, used to attract the attention of the curious:



Sacred to the memory of

HENRY HARRIS,

Born June 27, 1821, of Henry Harris  
and Jane his wife.

Died on the 4th of May, 1837, by the kick of a colt  
in his bowels.

Peaceable and quiet, a friend to  
his father and mother, and respected  
by all who knew him, and went  
to the world where horses  
don't kick, where sorrows and weeping  
is no more.

When this ground, which had been set apart by Michael Ross, the founder of Williamsport, for burial purposes, was abandoned and turned into a park, the remains of many interred there were removed to other cemeteries by their friends. The headstone bearing the Harris inscription disappeared and has not been seen for many years.

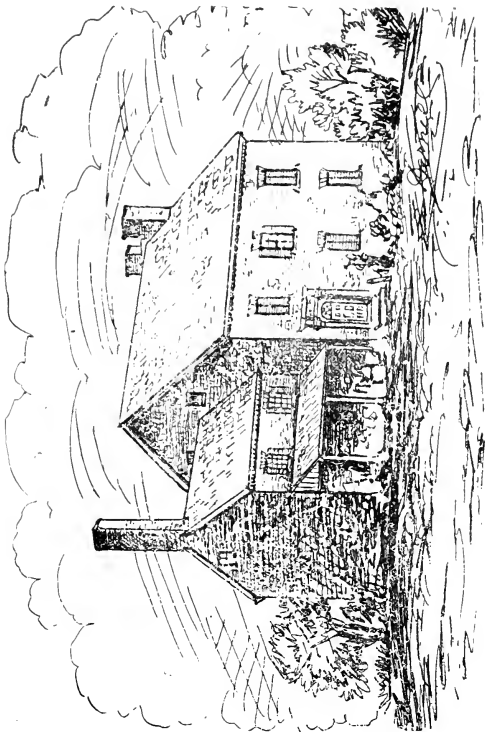
A little over a mile west of Jersey Shore, on the canal, is one of

the oldest cemeteries in Lycoming County. At first it was known as the "Davidson Burying Ground," because the ground was set apart for that purpose by Dr. James Davidson, who owned the farm on which it is located. He was a surgeon in the Revolutionary army, and settled there soon after the close of the war. On the erection of Lycoming County, April 13th, 1795, he was appointed one of the associate judges by Governor Mifflin. Dr. Davidson died January 16th, 1825, aged about 75 years, and was buried in this cemetery, but there is no longer a trace of his grave to be found. Many other old settlers were buried there, and a visit to the place is interesting, as many of their tombstones are yet in good condition. A plain headstone, now in a leaning position, bears this curious epitaph:

Sacred to the memory  
of JAMES McMURRAY,  
Born in Ireland, June  
11, 1764. Emigrated to  
America in 1790, was  
Converted to God in  
1820, and united with  
the M. E. Church. The  
husband of three wives,  
the Father of 22 Chil-  
dren, 18 living, the gr-  
and Father of 38. Who died  
in Jersey Shore April 11, 1853,  
in good peace & triumph,  
being 54 yr's a resident  
of the country where he  
exchanged earth for Heaven.

His descendants are scattered throughout the country. Several of the sons attained to distinction as professional men. Dr. Wesley McMurray, who died in Jersey Shore soon after his father, gave great promise as a physician. Rev. J. S. McMurray, D. D., became a distinguished Methodist Episcopal minister. He was a member of the Central Pennsylvania Conference, served as presiding elder on more than one occasion, and only died a few years ago. Three of the four wives of Rev. J. H. Grier lie side by side in this old cemetery. Hon. Isaac Smith, who represented this district in Congress from 1813 to 1815, is also buried here by the side of his wife.





Residence of Judge Hepburn, Built in 1801. See page 322.



# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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## HISTORY

—OF—

## NORTHUMBERLAND PRESBYTERY.

BY REV. JOSEPH STEVENS, D. D.

About the time the excitement and the animosities caused by the civil war began to subside, and the Presbytery was entering on a career of progressive work with flattering prospects of success, a case of discipline, of the gravest character, was forced upon, and absorbed its attention for several months. The Rev. William Simonton, pastor of the First Church of Williamsport, having obtained leave of his congregation to suspend his labors among them for a season, that he might travel in foreign parts, the officers of the church employed the Rev. William A. Kerr to occupy the pulpit during his absence. Mr. Kerr had recently been pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Easton, Pa., had received his literary and scientific education at Washington and Jefferson College, and his theological training at the Western Theological Seminary, Allegheny, Pa. He was a preacher of more than ordinary attractiveness, and soon won the attachment of a large part of the congregation. A short time after Mr. Simonton returned, he resigned the pastorate of the First Church, and in the course of time Mr. Kerr was called to the charge. When he applied to be received into the Presbytery and installed, it was found there were rumors current very damaging to his moral character. He was taken into the Presbytery, but his installation was deferred till

these rumors should be inquired into. As he made no active effort to vindicate himself, the Presbytery arraigned him before its bar on the charge of common rumor of living in unscriptural separation from his wife. The record of the case, as it stands on page 96, Minutes, Vol. IV., reads thus:

I. *Resolved*, That the call from the First Church of Williamsport be now put into the hands of the Rev. W. A. Kerr, and that a committee be appointed to install him, at a date to be fixed by the committee, not earlier than July 1st, unless otherwise ordered by the Presbytery.

II. *Resolved*, That the Presbytery deem it their duty to prosecute the charge made before them by common rumor against the Rev. W. A. Kerr, viz, that he is living in unscriptural separation from his wife; and that a committee of three, two ministers and one elder, be appointed to conduct the whole case on the part of the Presbytery, and that said committee be ordered to issue (prosecute) the case immediately.

The trial was set for the 18th of June, ensuing, and a committee appointed to conduct it. After every possible effort of the committee to procure testimony, the case failed through the refusal of the only competent witness to testify. Immediately on the failure of this case, two gentlemen, members of the First Church of Williamsport, came forward with charges which they regularly tabled against Mr. Kerr, with specifications involving the gravest immoralities. These charges were tried, in the church at Newberry, after the two gentlemen who preferred them had been prosecuted, at the instance of Mr. Kerr, in the civil court of Lycoming County, for *libel*, and acquitted. The ecclesiastical trial was commenced in the Lycoming Church, at Newberry, on the 19th of November, 1872. In the meantime, the wife of Mr. Kerr had preferred to Presbytery a complaint against him, and he was required to defend himself against the charges tabled by the two gentlemen above referred to, Messrs. Gibson and Housel, and the complaint made by Mrs. Emily M. Kerr, in two separate trials, the one immediately succeeding the other. These trials continued to occupy the Presbytery, at intervals, till the 14th of February, 1873, when, in both cases, he was adjudged guilty, and was deposed from the Christian ministry and suspended from the communion of the Church. Seldom has it fallen to the lot of any Presbytery to pass through such an ordeal of excitement, and bear the odium of such uncharitable criticisms as the Presbytery of Northumberland encountered during these protracted and hotly contested trials; but wisdom is justified of her

children; Christian morality was vindicated, the honor of the Church and of the ministry was maintained, and Christ was glorified in the result. A large proportion of the people of the First Church stood by their accused minister to the end, defended him with astonishing zeal, and refused to admit his guilt even after the Presbytery had so thoroughly investigated the case and found him guilty. Mr. Kerr gave notice to Presbytery of his purpose to appeal his case to the General Assembly, and every arrangement was made by his friends to secure the most favorable hearing possible; but before the General Assembly met, certain developments of character on the part of Mr. Kerr satisfied so many of his most ardent friends of his guilt, that all efforts to bring the case before the Assembly were dropped. Thus, after the Presbytery had patiently and arduously done its work and proved its faithfulness to its trust, the providence of God came in and swept away the rubbish that had obscured the vision of many sincere minds, and relieved all concerned of any doubt that the troublesome affair had been wisely dealt with and righteously adjudicated. Naturally the First Church was left somewhat under a cloud. For a time it suffered some depression; its numbers were depleted, and it was otherwise discouraged. But in a few years it recovered from all the unfavorable consequences of the fiery ordeal through which it had passed; and, like the fabled Phoenix, arising out of its own ashes, resumed a new and vigorous life, and now, at this writing, occupies the foremost place among the churches of the Presbytery. The city of Williamsport has had a rapid growth in population and wealth, and this church, whose future seemed at the time of these troubles, and as a consequence of them, so discouraging, has entered into and partaken largely of the prosperity of the place. It has erected one of the most costly and beautiful church buildings to be found in the interior of Pennsylvania, it owns a commodious and substantial parsonage, and the efforts of its present energetic pastor are attended with unusual success in all his ministrations.

In 1874 the Presbytery adopted the expedient of sending visiting committees—each consisting of two ministers—to all its churches, with the view of awakening a more earnest religious interest among the people. They were instructed to hold pro-

tracted religious services in all the congregations, and to use all appropriate means to arouse and intensify the zeal of the people. The plan proved, in the main, very successful. The result was a quickened religious life among the churches and unusually large additions to their membership, while other incidental advantages flowed from it, to the great benefit of the cause of Christ, as represented by this Presbytery. Efforts of this kind, if judiciously managed and not undertaken too often, can hardly fail of salutary results. They bring the clergy and the people of the denomination into acquaintance with one another, and impress the churches with the feeling that the Presbytery has more than a mere official interest in their spiritual welfare. But to give it the promise of success there must be a careful distribution and adaptation of the committees to the circumstances and needs of the congregations. Though of late years there has been but a limited expansion of the Presbytery in the way of additional churches, still there has been a very solid and substantial increase of the strength and ability of the churches. The limited scope of its field of operations precludes the possibility of any future extended increase of church organizations, but the population is increasing and the membership of the existing churches is multiplying in a healthy degree, while the material resources of the people are enlarging and constantly swelling the contributions of the churches to the support of the ministry and the benevolent calls of the Church at large. The increase in ministers' salaries and in benevolence among the churches of this Presbytery, within the last thirty years, has been in regular gradation with the increase of wealth among the people.

In 1875 a woman's missionary society, auxiliary to the Woman's Foreign Board, was organized within the Presbytery, which has greatly aided in developing the benevolence of the churches. Its growth at first was slow, and its contributions small, but gradually it took root in the hearts of the daughters of the Church, and of late it has grown like a tree planted by a river of waters; and its constantly enlarging fruitfulness, both in the collection of funds for missionary purposes and the development of the talents and graces of the women, is something refreshing to contemplate. The society, auxiliary to the Woman's Home Board, though of somewhat later organization, is also doing a noble work and rising fast

in the scale of benevolent effort. These female organizations all over the land seem like angels sent from heaven to give impulse and scope to the too sluggish and too narrow efforts of the men to fulfil the Divine command: "Go ye into all the earth and preach the gospel to every creature."

We have not access to records which would enable us to present an accurate comparative view of the growth of this Presbytery from its origin to the present time, except in the long range from 1811 to the present date, and in the most general way. It began its career with thirteen organized churches; it now has forty-seven. Some of these are small and feeble, and a few apparently destined to an early death. The growth cannot be said to have been rapid, though it has been substantial and encouraging. The progress made during the last nineteen years will give us an approximate idea of its general increase in all the essential elements of growth from the beginning of its history. The following figures are taken from the minutes of General Assembly from 1867 to 1886:

	1867.	1886.
Whole number of Churches.....	42	47
“ “ Ministers.....	31	42
“ “ Adults Baptized.....	60	112
“ “ Infants “.....	140	224
“ “ Communicants.....	3,903	5,737
“ “ Sunday School Members.....	2,483	5,844
Whole amount given to Home Missions.....	\$ 982	\$ 4,691
“ “ “ “ Foreign Missions.....	1,467	4,818
“ “ “ “ Education.....	1,196	519
“ “ “ “ Publication.....	261	273
“ “ “ “ Church Erection.....	1,681	731
“ “ “ “ Relief Fund.....	532	827
“ “ “ “ Congregational.....	24,114	58,357

It will be seen from this table that in some departments the progress has been very commendable, in others comparatively small, and in a few there has been a decline.

In 1867 the number of candidates for the ministry, under the care of the Presbytery, was three and in 1886 it was two. In its earlier days—its days of poverty and hard, self-denying toil—the Presbytery brought many more laborers into the harvest than in its later days of comparative wealth and luxury.

We do not purpose to cumber the pages of this necessarily brief

sketch with details of Presbyterian routine, but only to note such items as may prove of historical value to those who shall succeed the present occupants of the territory covered by this Presbytery. The records and documents at hand contain little or nothing of historical interest or worth, beyond what we have recorded in the foregoing pages, which may not be handled to better advantage in a brief historical sketch of the individual churches belonging to the Presbytery.

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### PART III.

#### HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF THE CHURCHES BELONGING TO THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

The Presbyterian Church, in its form of government, requires all its church courts to keep a full and fair record of all their proceedings. With such a constitutional provision it might be supposed there would be no difficulty in ascertaining the date of any transaction appertaining to any of its particular churches worthy of record, especially the date of its organization. Yet just here insuperable difficulties are encountered. This requirement was totally neglected by the pioneers of Presbyterianism in the interior section of Pennsylvania, covered by the Presbytery of Northumberland. Of the thirteen churches with which the Presbytery commenced its career, the exact date of the organization of a single one cannot be ascertained. In some cases, it would seem, no sessional records were kept, or, at least, preserved. None can be found; so that their history can never be written with satisfactory precision. Why this should be so it is not easy to explain. The pioneer ministers were intelligent, educated men, and knew the value of records, but perhaps their time and attention were too closely occupied with the field duties of their calling, and their struggle for subsistence, to allow them sufficient thought or effort for making up records. Approximate dates are the only ones that can be furnished.

It is conceded that the Presbyterian Church at Buffalo X Roads is the oldest one in the West Branch Valley, and probably the first organized within the present limits of the Northumberland Presbytery. Meginness, who derives his facts from the Rev.

Isaac Grier, D. D., and other sources, says in his "Otzinachson," or History of the West Branch Valley, "that as early as 1774 supplies were sent more than fifty miles higher up the West Branch" (than Buffalo Valley). According to the Rev. Mr. Hood's statement, who was the second installed pastor of the church, Buffalo Church was organized in 1773, and James McClenakan and Samuel Allen were its first ruling elders. These gentlemen continued to officiate as elders, and the congregation to receive supplies until 1781, when it was broken up, or suspended by the Indian disturbances which caused the "Great Runaway." In 1783 the people returned, and in the same year Mr. McClenakan died, and as Mr. Allen had died while the people were away, the congregation was without elders till 1785, when Matthew Laird, who had been a ruling elder in "Big Spring" congregation, came to reside in this congregation. In 1787 they were visited by Mr. Hugh Morrison, a licentiate from Ireland, to whom they gave a call and he became their first pastor. Mr. Morrison was at the same time called to the pastorate of the Sunbury and Northumberland congregations. The call reads thus:

MR. HUGH MORRISON, Preacher of the Gospel, &c.

*Sir:*—We the subscribers, members of Buffalo, Sunbury and Northumberland congregations, having never in these places had the stated administration of the Gospel ordinances, yet highly prizing, and having a view to the advancement of the kingdom of Christ, and the spiritual edification of ourselves and families, have set ourselves to obtain that blessing among us; and therefore as we have had the opportunity of some of your labors in these places, and are satisfied with your soundness, piety and ministerial ability to break unto us the bread of life, we do most heartily and sincerely, in the name of the Shepherd of the flock, Jesus Christ, call and invite you to come and take the pastoral charge and oversight of us in the Lord.

The call is signed by seventeen from Northumberland, eight from Sunbury and forty-eight from Buffalo. Mr. Morrison continued the pastor of these three congregations for upwards of fourteen years, the pastoral relations having been dissolved November 12th, 1801.\*

With this pastorate the connection between Buffalo, Sunbury and Northumberland ceased, and Buffalo sought a union with the Washington Church, in White Deer Valley, in the support of a

\*See Meginness' Otzinachson and Rev. Isaac Grier's centennial sermon, 1876.

pastor. They called, jointly, Mr. James Magraw, a licentiate of the Presbytery of New Castle, in 1803, but he did not accept the call. In 1804 they called Thomas Hood, a licentiate of the same Presbytery, who accepted the call and was ordained and installed over these charges in October, 1805. Mr. Hood continued in the pastorate of this church till 1835. He seems to have proved himself an able minister of the New Testament, and his memory is still held in esteem by the descendants of his former parishioners. In 1835 Mr. Hood, having resigned this charge, the late Rev. Isaac Grier, D.D., was called for half his time and gave the other half of his time to Bethel Church, in White Deer Township. With an interval of one year, in which he accepted a call from the Washington Church, in White Deer Valley, he served the Buffalo Church until his death, in June, 1884, and from 1853 for all his time. He was an active, useful pastor, greatly beloved by the people whom he served so long, and held in high esteem by his co-presbyters. The son of one of the original constituent members of the Presbytery, he spent all his natural life-time within its bounds, and did not cease his preaching till the Master called him to his reward. His last sermon was preached on the Sabbath before his death. For further details of his life and death the reader is directed to the Presbyterian "Obituary Record Book," in the custody of the Stated Clerk. The Buffalo Church may with propriety be called the mother of churches. Five churches have been organized within the territory originally occupied by this church, viz.: The Mifflinburg Church, organized in 1818 or 1819. This arose out of a disagreement on the Psalmody question. Two good old elders felt greatly aggrieved at the substitution of Watt's Hymns for Rouse's version of the Psalms, and felt in conscience bound to start up a church where their mouths should not be closed in singing the praises of God. They were supplied by the Associate Reformed Second Presbytery of Philadelphia. The Rev. George Junkin preached to them from 1821 to 1823, and was followed by the Rev. David Kirkpatrick, who, in October, 1827, made application with the church to the Presbytery of Northumberland, and both were received from the Associate Reformed body. The next church formed out of the Buffalo Church was in 1831, when a small church was organized in White Deer Township, called the Bethel Church, taken off from the northern part of the terri-



tory. This church has passed out of existence. In 1832 another church, by order of Presbytery, was organized by the Rev. Mr. N. Todd, at Laurel Run, taking off the most westerly part. This, too, soon became extinct. In 1833 a church was organized at Lewisburg, taking off the most easterly part of the territory, and in 1841 a church was organized in New Berlin, taking off from the south. And yet the old mother still lives and holds on her way. May she have a serene and fruitful old age.

NORTHUMBERLAND CHURCH.—This church, we assume, was organized about the same date as was the Buffalo Church. This would appear from the fact that the Rev. Hugh Morrison was called to the pastorate of it, conjointly with that of Buffalo Church, in 1787, and was its first pastor. After the resignation of Mr. Morrison, in 1801, this church continued its union with Sunbury in the support of a pastor. The Rev. Isaac Grier was called to these two charges from the three charges of Great Island, Lycoming and Pine Creek, in 1806. He here also, at Northumberland, conducted an academy, to which reference has been made in Part I. He died in 1814, and was succeeded, in 1816, by Robert F. N. Smith, who came, a licentiate, into this Presbytery from the Presbytery of New Castle. Mr. Smith continued pastor of these charges till the fall of 1819, when the pastoral relation was dissolved, and he was finally, after having been tried at the bar of Presbytery for some dereliction of duty for which he was admonished, dismissed to the Presbytery of Mississippi. In 1822 Mr. W. R. Smith was called to the united churches of Northumberland and Sunbury. He was a licentiate of this Presbytery, and was ordained and installed on the 14th of May. This pastorate continued till 1831, when Mr. Smith was released from the charge. This frequent change of pastors does not seem to have conduced to the permanent prosperity of the church. It never does; it is in conflict with the theory of the Presbyterian Church, and in a large measure defeats the gospel aim of the pastorate. The pastor should be one with his people, identified with all their interests, and in loving sympathy with them in all their cares, anxieties and sufferings till the end of life. The church at Northumberland has not kept pace with its opportunities and advantages, nor does its membership and influence bear a favorable comparison with the increase of population; while

the chronic disease of change is as deeply seated in its church-life as ever. It has indeed become self-sustaining to a moderate degree, so that it does not need to be grouped with other churches, as in earlier days, in order to exist, but with the resources and advantages within its grasp it ought to be, and we can see no reason why it could not have become, with prudent management, one of the strongest and most influential churches of the Presbytery. After the rupture of 1838, which divided the Presbyterian Church into New and Old School, this church of Northumberland divided on that line, and the one moderately strong body now became two weak and rival bodies. A gentleman of wealth—a member of the New School branch—with the hope of strengthening its weakness and enlarging its usefulness, at his death bequeathed it eleven thousand dollars, the income of which was to be devoted to the support of the pastor and the help of the Sabbath School. This fund was properly administered and appropriated, and was an encouraging help to the usefulness of the New School Church; but when the reunion took place, in 1869–1870, the two churches, by common consent, became one, and all the property of each, including this fund, became the common property of the united church. Here was a splendid foundation on which to build a grand superstructure for the moral and religious uplifting of the community; but no sooner had the union of the churches been consummated than dissension arose about this fund. It was soon dragged into the courts, became the sport and prey of lawyers, and in the scramble has been nearly all lost, while the church continues comparatively weak and thriftless.

SUNBURY CHURCH.—What we have written touching the Northumberland church will apply, in a slightly modified measure, to the church at Sunbury, excepting what has been said concerning the vested fund of the former. It had the same pastors through a long series of years, was subjected to the same frequent changes of administration, troubled with similar chronic dissensions, and marked by the same stunted growth and narrow range of influence; while the increase of population offered a splendid opportunity for progress and extended usefulness. Since it entered on a separate, self-sustaining career it has become stronger than Northumberland, but then it has much superior local advantages. Compara-

tively speaking, it can hardly boast of advantage in the race of progress.

**WARRIOR RUN CHURCH.**—This church was probably organized about the time of the organization of Buffalo, Northumberland and Sunbury, or a little later. I take the following from the May (1887) number of *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL*:

The earliest authentic history of the churches of Warrior Run and Chillisquaque is found in a manuscript journal of Rev. Philip V. Fithian, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Donegal, who was appointed by his Presbytery to go on a mission tour through the region embraced by the West Branch Valley. On Sabbath, July 16th, 1775, he first preached at Warrior Run. The meeting-house, a log building, not yet covered, stood on the bank of the river, eighteen miles from Northumberland. Mr. Fithian writes that the congregations were large and attentive, the people coming from all parts of the country, some on horseback and others in canoes.

It appears from this record that the Warrior Run Church was at this date organized, though it had no pastor. No reason appears why its organization should not have run back at least as far as 1773. The disturbed state of the country, and the poverty of the people, perhaps prevented the settlement of a pastor over it earlier than 1790, when the Rev. John Bryson was called and installed over it, who seems to have been its first settled pastor. Of his life and work we have given an account in Part II. This church had a prosperous career under the long pastorate of Mr. Bryson, and fostered an intelligent and prosperous community. Its first house of worship, as has been stated, was a log building on the river bank, eighteen miles from Northumberland. The church in which Mr. Bryson was installed was situated six miles north of Milton, on the State road leading to Muncy. It was the custom in these early days to locate country church buildings in spacious groves near an ample supply of water. The people usually met on the Sabbath for two services, and spent the most of the day at the church, eating a lunch in the interval between the services. These church groves were generally the most charming spots to be found in the communities in which they were located. Such were the groves of Warrior Run, Chillisquaque, Buffalo and other churches in this Presbytery. The church of Warrior Run, after the retirement of Mr. Bryson from the pastorate, began to decline, partly on account of the organization of other churches within its

original territory, or in its near vicinity, and partly from the removal of Presbyterian families from the locality, and its occupaney by people of other denominational connections or proclivities. It has had many pastors since Mr. Bryson's day, none of whom seem to have found the field sufficiently encouraging to hold them to it for a life-time.

**CHILLISQUAQUE CHURCH.**—This church, uniformly spelled in the old records, Gillisquaqua, must have been organized at least as early as Warrior Run—about 1773. It was joined with Warrior Run under the pastorate of Mr. Bryson, and seems to have had a history in all essential respects similar to it. Like Warrior Run, it has become enfeebled by age and depletion through removals, and the shifting of population; and can hardly expect to resume a vigorous existence in the future. Like Warrior Run, it has had many pastors since Mr. Bryson's day, none of whom have found encouragement enough to hold them to the field very long.

**PINE CREEK (NOW JERSEY SHORE) CHURCH.**—The date of the organization of this, like that of all the original churches of this Presbytery, is uncertain. As near as I can ascertain, it was not later than 1792 or 1793. A venerable mother in Israel, the late Mrs. Anna Hamilton, widow of Robert Hamilton, who had been an active and efficient elder of the church from a short period after its organization until his death, which occurred in 1845, informed the writer that she was one of the original constituent members of the church at its organization, and her memory, which was noted for its correctness, fixed the date as above mentioned. This excellent lady was the mother of the Rev. William C. Hamilton, who, at a very early age, devoted himself to the arduous work of missionary to the Northwestern Indians, among whom he still continues to labor; and of the late Rev. J. J. Hamilton, of the Presbytery of Carlisle. She died April 16th, 1862, in the 95th year of her age. According to Mrs. Hamilton's statement the organization took place under a large tree on the western bank of Pine Creek, near the present terminus of the bridge over that stream, on the road between Jersey Shore and Lock Haven, and was effected by a committee of the Presbytery of Carlisle. The first elders were Robert Love and a Mr. Culbertson, and soon after Robert Hamilton

and Hugh White were added. At the time of its organization the church had no house of worship, but soon after a large frame church building was erected near the spot where the organization took place.

The first pastor was the Rev. Isaac Grier, a native of Cumberland County. An account of his life, death and family will be found in Parts I. and II. of this history. In the spring of 1792 he was sent as a missionary to the West and North Branches of the Susquehanna River, by the Presbytery of Carlisle, as far as Albany and Ticonderoga, New York. On the 15th of June, of that year, he arrived at Northumberland; on the next day he preached at Chillisquaque; on June 21st he preached at Derry; thence he rode to Lycoming, now Newberry, June 22d, and lodged with a Mr. Hepburn; on the 24th he preached there, and finding a man who was going to what was called Pine Creek Station, he sent word by him that he would be there to preach to them on the next Sabbath. He rode to Pine Creek Station on the 26th and lodged with a Mr. Bell. On June 28th he preached at Pine Creek. The messenger by whom he had sent word of his coming had faithfully performed his promise, but the congregation was so small that Mr. Grier felt surprised and discouraged. On inquiring, after the services, why there were so few people at the preaching, he was told that the man by whom he sent word of his coming was known to be a Methodist, and the people supposed that it was a Methodist minister that was to preach, whom they did not want to hear.\* The Methodist ministers could not have been as popular in those days as they are now; they were a small folk at that time in this country, and were not on as good terms with Presbyterians and Presbyterianism as they now are. This was Mr. Grier's first visit to the people who were destined to constitute his first charge. On the 19th of June, 1793, a call was put in his hands by the Presbytery of Carlisle, from the united congregations of Lycoming, Pine Creek and Great Island, which he took under consideration. On the 2d of October, same year, he accepted this call; was ordained to the full office of the gospel ministry in April, 1794, at Carlisle; at the same time he was installed over this united charge, a commissioner, authorized to act for the churches, being

\*Journal of Rev. Isaac Grier, furnished by his son, Rev. I. Grier, D. D.

present. Mr. Grier's pastorate over the Pine Creek Church covered a period of about twelve years. A vacancy of eight years followed, during which the church was probably supplied with occasional preaching and administration of ordinances by neighboring ministers. In 1814 John H. Grier, a native of Bucks County, and licentiate of the New Castle Presbytery, was called to the pastorate of this church, and ordained and installed in the summer of 1815 over the Pine Creek Church for half his time, the other half of his time being devoted to the Great Island Church. His charge was substantially that which Isaac Grier had served, with the exception of Lycoming. A brief account of his life, work and death will be found in Part I. of this history.

When the Pine Creek Church was organized and the house of worship built, the town of Jersey Shore did not exist. The country was sparsely settled and the population scattered. The people were almost all Scotch-Irish, and Presbyterians. The territory on the west side of the West Branch of the Susquehanna had only been open to settlers about seven years, it being till then an Indian reserve territory. About the year 1800 there were four houses on the present site of Jersey Shore. In 1826 the town was incorporated, and in 1832 a few Presbyterians, who lived in the town and on the opposite side of the river, among whom were John A. Gamble, Abram Lawshe, James Wilson, Mark Slonecker, George Tomb, James M. Hepburn, George Crane and David and Charles McMicken, joined with the Baptists and built a brick meeting-house, to be occupied by the two denominations jointly. It was called the "Union Church." Soon after this house was completed the Pine Creek Church was invited to hold occasional services in it. This invitation was accepted and occasional services were conducted there till 1836, when, I learn from a record in the treasurer's book, kept by the late Abraham Lawshe, the Session having by formal resolution agreed to the arrangement, regular services began to be held there and the church was virtually transferred from Pine Creek to Jersey Shore. The old church building on Pine Creek was eventually converted into an academy, the first, and I believe the only, principal of which was the late Rev. J. J. Hamilton; and by and by took fire and was consumed. In 1842, a division having arisen in the church—one party opposing and the other sustaining the con-

tinued pastorate of Mr. Grier—the opposing parties finally compromised the matter by calling the Rev. Daniel M. Barber for half his time. This did not interfere with Mr. Grier's call, as that was only for half his time. Mr. Barber, who was well known to the people, accepted the call and continued to serve the church as co-pastor for nine years; at the same time conducting a select school—an institution much needed in the community.

The Rev. D. M. Barber was a native of this interior section of Pennsylvania, a man of decidedly positive character, of more than ordinary intellectual ability and a forcible preacher. He was possessed of good social qualities and was a genial companion. He acquired his college education at Washington, Pa., and his theological education at Princeton, N. J. He died at Milton about, or soon after, the close of the late civil war, having acted as chaplain in the Union army for a time. He was somewhat more than 60 years of age when he died, and was buried in the old Derry Church burying ground, in the neighborhood of which he had grown up to manhood, and where his ancestors and most of his immediate family rest. In the spring of 1851 Mr. Grier and Mr. Barber resigned their respective pastorates of the Pine Creek Church, and at the same meeting of Presbytery which consummated their resignations, Elder Samuel Simmons, representing the church, asked the Presbytery to change its name from Pine Creek to "The Church of Jersey Shore." His request was laid over till the next fall meeting, when the name was changed by act of Presbytery. About the same time an act of incorporation was procured in the name and title of the "Presbyterian Church of Jersey Shore." Previous to this, however, in the spring or summer of 1850, the congregation commenced the erection of a new church building, on Main Street, near the centre of the town; the old building, though a spacious and substantial brick house, having become inconvenient of access, being situated in the extreme northwest corner of the town. In 1844 the Presbyterian congregation bought out the Baptist interest in the "Union Church," and became the sole owner of it; and six years after this abandoned it for a better locality and a more modern and elegant structure. On Saturday, the last day of July, 1851, the Rev. Joseph Stevens landed in Jersey Shore, having received from the Session an invi-

tation to visit the church, through the Rev. D. M. Barber and J. W. Yeomans, D. D. He had been licensed to preach six or seven years before by the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia, having graduated at Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., and at the Theological Seminary at Princeton, N. J., and been ordained at Natchez, Miss., in which State he had, on leaving the Princeton Seminary, accepted a professorship in Oakland College—an institution belonging to and under the management of the Synod of that State—and engaged to supply the pulpit of the church of Rodney, four miles distant from the college. His health having become enfeebled through the severities of the climate and overwork, he resigned his position there and traveled north. Turning aside to visit Dr. Yeomans, an old and esteemed friend at Danville, Pa., he received the invitation to visit the church at Jersey Shore. After preaching to the people a few Sabbaths, he was unanimously called to be the pastor of the church, and was soon installed: One year after his installation the congregation took possession of its new house of worship, which it still occupies. This house has, since that date, been three times refitted and repaired at an expense, each time, not much less than its original cost, and is now a model of neatness, cheerfulness and convenience. The old building was converted into the “West Branch High School,” a parochial institution that has been second only to the church itself in usefulness to the community. This school was kept in active and useful operation to the close of the pastorate of Rev. Joseph Stevens, D. D., in October, 1886, when, or a little before, through the mismanagement of those entrusted with its control, it was closed, and though it has been recently re-opened, its future does not seem encouraging. Those who received their education there, and they were a goodly number, will remember with gratitude the energetic and self-sacrificing efforts of the pastor and the excellent men who rallied around him, to perpetuate this worthy and much-needed school. But the builders who wrought so well have either passed away or been laid aside by age, while the present times and circumstances do not seem favorable to maintaining their work.

During the late pastorate of Dr. Stevens the church became strong and influential, holding a position in the Presbytery equal to any on its roll, and for many years having the largest membership.



He retired after a pastorate of nearly thirty-six years. May the future of the church be more prosperous than the past. This church has had but three pastorates, though four pastors, including the co-pastor, Mr. Barber, in ninety-four years. But the fathers, where are they? Noble men they were. The children, what are they? The future must tell.

LYCOMING CHURCH.—This church is at least as old as Pine Creek. Its organization probably goes back to about the same date as that of Pine Creek. Its first pastor was the Rev. Isaac Grier, who at the same time was the first pastor of the Pine Creek Church. After his resignation of its pastorate this church seems to have cut loose from all association with other churches in the support of a pastor. So far as the records show, it was vacant from the time of Rev. Isaac Grier's resignation till 1814, having had occasional supplies from the Presbytery during that time. On the 4th of October, 1814, the Rev. Samuel Henderson, a member of the Presbytery of New Castle, presented himself to the Presbytery of Northumberland, with a call to the Lycoming Church. He was received and soon after installed. This church must have, at this time, become strong, as it was able to support a pastor all his time. Mr. Henderson's pastorate was of short duration, and very unfortunate. He was arraigned before the bar of Presbytery on the charge of immoralities, and conduct unbecoming a minister of the gospel. He was found guilty of the latter charge and suspended from the ministry in 1817, and at the same time the pulpit of the church was declared vacant. At a later date of the same year Mr. Henderson was restored to the ministry, on his profession of repentance and reformation, and another call from the Lycoming Church for his services as pastor was presented to Presbytery, but accompanied with a strong remonstrance against it. The Presbytery did not think it wise to put the call into his hands.\*

From this time till 1820 this church was occasionally supplied by Presbytery. On the 18th of April, of that year, the Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, applied for admittance to the Presbytery of Northumberland, and, on being received, presented a call from the Lycoming Church, which was put into his hands and accepted by him. He was installed in due

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\*See old minutes for 1817.

time. On April 15th, 1823, this pastoral relation was dissolved. Mr. Snowden was, after some time, put on trial before Presbytery for some misconduct, for which he was ordered to be admonished by the Moderator. On October 7th, 1825, Mr. Joseph Painter, a licentiate of this, the Northumberland Presbytery, was called to this church, and he was shortly after ordained and installed. In April, 1828, we find a resolution in the minutes of Presbytery requesting "the Moderator to preach in Mr. Painter's congregation, and address the people on the subject of his ministerial support." The Moderator, that year, was the Rev. George Junkin, afterward the Dr. George Junkin who acted so prominent a part in the *Crisis*, or proceedings of the General Assembly, that resulted in the division of the Church into New and Old School. No doubt the people of the Lycoming Church had the subject very fully and plainly put to them. At this same meeting of Presbytery "Mr. Painter read a history of the Lycoming congregation, which he was directed to record in the beginning of the sessional records of that church as amended."\* This was in obedience to a resolution of Presbytery, at a former meeting, requiring all pastors to write and record the history of their respective congregations. Mr. Painter seems to have been the only member who complied with this requirement, and his history of the Lycoming congregation cannot now be found. At the meeting of Presbytery, October 20th, 1829, Mr. Painter "applied to Presbytery for advice with regard to leaving his congregation, and after hearing his reasons for such a step, Presbytery agreed unanimously that it seemed to be his duty to remain with them." The reasons for this application were perhaps their failure to pay his salary, and the many discouraging effects of such delinquency on pastoral work. On the 17th of April, 1831, Mr. Painter made formal application to Presbytery to dissolve his pastoral relation to this church, which was granted. Thus we see that from the beginning the pastoral relation has not been very long continued in the Lycoming Church. For a series of years after Williamsport began to grow, and the church there became active and self-sustaining, Lycoming became more feeble and had a hard struggle to sustain a pastor; changes became more frequent than ever, and the prospects for a time were

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\*See old minutes for 1828.

discouraging. But a great change has taken place in its surroundings since the rapid growth of the city of Williamsport began to develop itself in this direction. The population has largely increased; Christians are active and aggressive, and the church has advanced in all the elements of successful work. Their late pastor, the Rev. Alexander Henry, who recently, much against his own will and the will of the people—under the pressure of broken health—left them, was enabled to extend the area of church-work to take in some destitute communities in the vicinity. The temperance reformation meets with a hearty response to all its claims, and some of the noblest examples of female workers in the temperance cause are to be found among its women. A large and beautiful addition to the church edifice has recently been built, which amply accommodates the large Sabbath School and a part of the regular Sabbath congregation; while there is no longer any need to request the Moderator of the Presbytery to preach to this congregation on the subject of their pastor's support. Their present pastor, the Rev. J. W. Boal, finds willing hearts and hands among them for all the requirements of church-work.

THE ORANGEVILLE CHURCH.—This church was organized in 1842. It is located in territory which originally belonged to the Old Briar Creek Church, and is one of the daughters of this venerable mother, which, after a struggle in its earlier days to sustain life, seems to have a somewhat promising future before it. The town of Orangeville is situated in a part of Columbia County, Pa., not favored with public improvements, or having much prospect of a future increase in population; but it is a comfortable little village, and has a considerable country around it to support the business of a town of its kind with a limited population. Soon after the civil war the State government supported a school there for the education of the children of deceased soldiers for a short time. After this school was removed the Rev. C. K. Canfield opened an academy in the vacated building, which for several years was very popular and prepared a large number of youth for college. This was a great help to the town in several respects. Mr. Canfield occupied the pulpit while he conducted the academy, but, finding the labor of the two positions too arduous, he finally gave up the school and confined his labors to the church. His

work has been attended with success, and he deserves great credit for his judicious and efficient management. This little church has had many pastors; usually it has been united with other neighboring churches in supporting its pastors. The following have been its pastors and supplies in the order here stated, viz.: Rev. D. J. Waller, Sr., from 1842 to 1843; the Rev. Charles Williams, from 1843 to 1847; the Rev. G. W. Newell, from 1847 to 1858; the Rev. W. P. Teitsworth, from 1858 to 1859; the Rev. Nathaniel Spear, from 1861 to 1875; the Rev. D. J. Waller, Jr., from 1876 to 1877, and the Rev. C. K. Canfield, from 1877 to the present time. Its original elders were Samuel White, John B. Edgar and William Patterson.

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.)

## THE WAR OF 1812—LOCAL INCIDENTS.

BY J. H. McMINN, WILLIAMSPORT.

ON the 4th of June, 1812, the United States declared war against Great Britain. The grounds alleged were the impressment of American seamen and the violation of neutral rights. On the 19th of August following, General Hull surrendered troops, stores and valuable territory in Michigan, without resistance.

Although the wisdom of going to war, at that time, was seriously questioned, yet this cowardly affair so aroused the indignation of the whole country as to precipitate an earnest and determined campaign. John Else, now living in Montoursville at the age of 92 years, distinctly remembers the intense feeling aroused in this valley, and that many enlisted and hurried to the seat of war.

Some five full companies, and many officers, went from Buffalo Valley and adjacent parts of Northumberland County. Lycoming was declared to be a frontier county, and only those were taken who volunteered to go. A large number undoubtedly went away, as our oldest citizens remember several families that became destitute on account of absent providers, and were compelled to appeal to their more fortunate neighbors for relief. John Else was then living on the "Robert's place," Spring Island, near Coffee Town,

and watched the troops march along the public road toward Tea Town.\*

These same troops entered Williamsport by way of East Third Street, and at William Street turned down to the river bank, which was then a large, grassy, public common. They went into camp and remained six weeks, after which the line of march was resumed toward Black Rock, on the Niagara River. They marched up William to Fourth Street, thence westward, at Hepburn Street crossing the borough limits, and by the main road proceeded to "Amariah Sutton's place," where they turned to the north by the main road up Lycoming Creek.† At the distance of about a mile they crossed the stream by the new bridge‡ and continued their march to Trout Run, where they divided, one detachment continuing up the creek towards their destination, while the other marched up Trout Run, through the Blockhouse settlement, to Wellsboro and the north.

Small squads of recruits frequently passed up the creek, and they would encamp near Caldwell's mill (now John Good's), when the people would pity them and give them supplies. On one occasion a wagon train was passing in front of the old Sutton house, when one of the guards ran his bayonet through a goose and threw it into his wagon. Mr. Samuel Williams, now living in Montoursville at the age of 80 years, stood by, a little boy, and watched the whole proceeding.

Eliza Vananda was a young girl at home and would often listen

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\* At that time a cluster of three or four houses stood near Loyalsock Creek, and another of similar number about a mile eastward—both on the main road to Williamsport. Owing to a social custom of tea drinking at the former place, the people of the other village derisively named the place "Tea Town," whereupon they retaliated by calling their neighbor "Coffee Town." These names have stuck to them until the present day, although both are now within the borough limits of Montoursville—a name conferred in 1832, when the first post-office was established and Solomon Bruer appointed postmaster.

† The "Old Sutton Farm" is now owned by the Hon. R. J. C. Walker. All the old landmarks have been removed; even the creek that formerly flowed close by the barn, in a deep, narrow channel, is now several hundred feet away, and the old bridge spans a shallow depression that is dry most of the year.

‡ This structure was probably one of the first timber arch bridges in this section of the country. It was built by Anthony Moore, Peter Vananda and James Wilson, in 1810 and 1811, and stood until 1865, when it was carried away by the remarkable flood that occurred on St. Patrick's Day.

with the other children to hear a gun go off, when they would exclaim, "There goes more soldiers."\*

Joseph King and George Reighard were drafted, but Colonel Samuel Stewart (of Nippenose) decided that they should remain at home to assist in protecting the frontier. Peter Arp, whose son's family reside in this city, was a soldier from one of the lower counties. Major James H. Huling, father of Major Lewis G. Huling, was a wagonmaster from this valley and went to Wellsboro with the troops. Cornelius Corson, grandfather of William T. Corson, lived in what is familiar to the present generation as the "Joe Gilmore place." He had Conestoga wagons, four and six horse teams, with which he twice a year made trips between Philadelphia, Pa., and Geneva, N. Y., hauling all kinds of freight and merchandise for merchants and others. He had the contract for hauling the provisions and stores for the troops from this point to the North.

Three detachments of infantry passed through this place in one body, numbering altogether about 600 men, under command of Lieutenant Colonel McFeeley. Colonel Hugh Brady commanded the Pennsylvania troops; Colonel Bosley the Virginia troops, and Colonel Randolph the Maryland troops. One company, known as the "Mob boys," had destroyed the printing establishment of an offensive citizen in Baltimore, and had enlisted to escape the clutches of the law. They were notorious thieves. In one night they stole eight or nine hens and a rooster from Joseph Wallis. One of the men baited a fish-hook with a grain of corn and threw it among a flock of geese near Front and West streets. After one of them had swallowed the bait, the soldier ran wildly into camp yelling and screaming, "that old gander's after me, he's after me!" not forgetting to hold fast to the string until his captive was landed

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\*"Mammy Fernander," wife of Peter Vananda, mentioned above, together with her large white dog and heavy cane, will be remembered by many sedate fathers of to-day, who once teased the old lady until almost frantic, by picking her berries on the ground now occupied by the Catholic cemetery. She died at the age of 96 years, at the old homestead that stood opposite the entrance of the new Jewish burying-ground, on Cemetery Street. Every vestige of the old mansion has been obliterated. The daughter Eliza, referred to, died May 29th, 1887, at the residence of her son, James V. Hinkle, No. 15 West Street, at the age of almost 86 years.

securely behind his tent, amidst the cheers and shouts of his comrades. On one occasion Captain Montgomery ordered out his company for drill. Of the one hundred men in his command, seventy-five were too drunk to be of any service. One of them, a very large, clumsy fellow, was placed in charge of a detail of two men, who were ordered to take him to the river and duck him. He submitted until they undertook to carry out the sentence, when he turned upon them and ducked them until the captain became alarmed for their lives, when he sent two more men to assist their comrades. These he also ducked thoroughly before he was overpowered, after which they administered the punishment so effectually that he was taken out almost lifeless and was with great difficulty resuscitated.

Apollos Woodward had just slaughtered three hogs that, together, weighed 2,100 pounds. He sold the hams to the officers above mentioned, and when the sergeant, sent to weigh them, reported the result he was met with the reply, "the devil they did," implying that the weight was incredible. Judge Woodward had a valuable young horse, and "Sammy" Grier, who disliked him, got some men to go down and press the horse into the military service. Woodward refused to give him up, and the party nudged John Heively to go and take him, whereupon Woodward knocked him down and locked the stable door. So they went off without the horse, and having proceeded irregularly, Woodward got the horse away out of their reach.

One day as Sam. Titus, who is yet with us at the age of over 92 years, stood watching the soldiers, with half a notion to enlist, Michael Ross touched him on the shoulder and said: "Samuel, never enlist; those men are ordered around like a lot of brutes." Samuel's patriotism was effectually subdued.

During the war Colonel John Cummings was the recruiting officer and Tim. Gray was in charge of the barracks. The firewood mysteriously disappeared night after night, so Tim had a stick bored and a charge of powder plugged in it. On the following day the stove of a man named Bailey had its "ten plates" blown in as many different directions. This Bailey was the son of a man known as "Beggan Bailey," from the fact that he had formerly lived on Lycoming Creek, where he had been burned out, after which he took to begging.

The post headquarters and barracks were located in an old log house that stood on the northeast corner of Pine Street and Black-horse Alley. When a recruit would commit a breach of discipline, he would be taken out into the back yard and flogged. George Dutich remembers when he and the other small boys would be attracted by the yells and cries of murder, &c., and they would peep through the crevices to see the performance.

During the war "Jimmy" Cummings kept tavern at the Heively stand, near Burrows' hat store, and being opposed to the war, was called a "Federalist." When the news came of Perry's victory, the public held a grand celebration, firing anvils and guns, and at night illuminating their dwellings, but "Jimmy" Cummings stoutly refused to participate, which so incensed Samuel Titus, Isaac Suthard and George Dale, three boys indentured to Thomas Alexander, "to learn the art and mystery of the carpenter trade," that they loaded up an old shotgun with gravel and peppered his "lion" through the shoulder, as it held its proud head aloft upon his tavern sign.

The "boys" were fond of singing a song that recited the victories of the campaign, one verse of which has been preserved:

"It was a Hornet of whose stuff I'll be bail,  
That tickled the Peacock and lowered his tail.

CHORUS—Bubble ru duddle ru dandy whale, &c."

Hector Burns, Thomas Martin, Robert Davidson and Oliphant Martin, residents at or near Jersey Shore, were appointed as lieutenants in the United States Army, through the influence of Andrew Gregg, of the United States Senate. Tunison Coryell, who lived there at that time, had been named, but on account of his broken leg his mother remonstrated so strongly that he gave it up. The others went at once into active service, and accompanied the army into Canada. Davidson fell under Scott; Thomas Martin and Hector Burns returned after the war, but Oliphant Martin was never heard from.

Captain Allison, a distinguished lawyer, of Huntington, had raised a company of infantry volunteers, who were ordered to the front at Black Rock. They marched by way of Jersey Shore, where they tarried over Sunday. Tunison Coryell suggested that the citizens provide them with supplies during their stay, and contrib-



uted a fat steer to the fund, on condition that the scheme be carried out. It might be added that "it was accomplished in first-class style," which the captain acknowledged in a patriotic speech. When they reached the border all but a few refused to cross, and the majority deserted and started back home. On the way many were attacked by camp fever, and when they reached Jersey Shore appealed to the kindness of the citizens. Many of them died, and the disease was contracted by several persons who were caring for the sick, of whom some died. One was John Ramsey, a hotel keeper.

These soldiers doubtless marched up Pine Creek by the new public road that was being built between Jersey Shore and Wellsboro about that time, under the supervision of Joseph Williams, grandfather of S. N. Williams, an efficient and experienced surveyor of that day.

In 1815, when the news was received that "peace" had been declared, the bell in the court house steeple was rung with such vehemence as to be heard at a distance of eleven miles. This bell hangs in the belfry of the court house of to-day, and faithfully responds to the hourly strokes of the town clock. It is made of bell metal, and is two feet four inches across the open end, and two feet high, weighing probably five or six hundred pounds. It bears the following inscription:

George Hedderly made me in  
Philadelphia Anno Di. 1804.

It was hauled on a wagon from Philadelphia to Williamsport by General John Burrows, who had been elected county commissioner in 1802. John Burrows was appointed by Governor Snyder, in 1811, as Major General of the Ninth Division of Pennsylvania Militia, to serve for seven years.

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ONLY one of the old cannon which used to frown from the ramparts of Fort Augusta is known to be in existence. It belongs to a Sunbury fire company, and is strapped to the floor of their engine house with iron bands, to prevent it from being stolen by rival companies. It is a precious relic of the days that were dark and bloody.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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Two Dollars per Annum, in Advance. Single Numbers, Twenty Cents.

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Address all letters and communications relating to literary matters, subscription or advertising to

JOHN F. MEGINNESS, *Editor and Publisher,*  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

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WILLIAMSPORT, FEBRUARY, 1888.

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## A HISTORIC HOUSE.

At the foot of Park Street, Williamsport, stands an old-fashioned brick house, yet in a good state of preservation. It is two stories in height, and is so surrounded with board piles that a stranger could hardly find it without being conducted to the spot. This was the residence of Hon. William Hepburn, who was a State Senator from Northumberland County in 1794. At the close of that year he introduced the bill for the erection of Lycoming County. It passed both houses of the Legislature and was approved by Governor Mifflin, April 13th, 1795. Senator Hepburn was one of the first settlers in this valley and took a prominent part in the early struggles with the Indians. He purchased a large tract of land in what is now the upper part of Williamsport, which was afterwards known as the "Deer Park Farm." Near where this brick house stands he first erected a log dwelling. In 1801 he built the brick house, the brick for which were burned a few yards from where it stands. At the same time enough brick were made to erect the first court house. When this house was built it was considered one of the finest buildings in this part of the country. In it and the log house Senator Hepburn's large family of nineteen children were born. He died June 25th, 1821, aged 78 years, and is buried in the old graveyard on Fourth Street. Senator Hepburn was twice married. His first wife was Crecy Crownover (called Covenhoven at that time). She died in 1800,

aged 71 years. His second wife was Elizabeth Huston, and she died November 21st, 1827, aged 48 years. Out of the nineteen children only two survive—Hon. Huston Hepburn, of Williamsport, and Mrs. Harriet Hart, of Elmira. The latter was born in 1804 and the former in 1817. Senator Hepburn was the first judge of Lycoming County, and it is a singular historical fact that his son Huston was the last associate judge. This house is now a famous landmark. Around it cluster many interesting historical associations. The owner was distinguished for his hospitality, and as he had a wide acquaintance he was visited by many prominent men of that time. The house was surrounded with fine grounds, which made it attractive. A wide lane led from the north front to the public highway, now known as Fourth Street. For some distance this lane was lined on both sides with thrifty cherry trees—then followed poplar trees, which continued to what is now Fourth Street. It was an inviting retreat in summer-time, and there are a few yet living who remember it well.

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SINCE the announcement in the last issue of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL, that if seven hundred subscribers could be obtained the History of the West Branch Valley would be reproduced in monthly parts, a goodly number of names have been received. It is proposed to issue this work, revised and greatly improved, beginning with the May number, 1888, and ending with the April number, 1889, inclusive. Forty pages will be published monthly, and it will be completed in twelve numbers. The price will be \$3, payable in advance. Those wishing to secure the work must send their subscriptions to the editor of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL, as it will not be sent to any one unless ordered. The cost of the enterprise will be heavy, and the author does not expect to realize any profit from it worth speaking of. Those who wish a copy of this old work are reminded that this will be the *only* chance to obtain it, and they are respectfully requested to send in their orders at once, as a limited edition of not exceeding eight hundred copies will be printed.

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IN answer to an interrogatory in THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL for January, Isaac Craig, Esq., of Allegheny, writes as follows: "Andastes is the French name of the Susquehannock Indians, once the

greatest and most war-like tribe. They at one time extended over the country from Virginia to Lake Erie. About 1676 they were conquered and almost exterminated by the Five Nations, aided by the French. Afterwards the remnant of the tribe became known as the Conestogas."

### OLD LETTERS AND ACCOUNTS.

The following copies of old letters and accounts will give the reader an idea how they transacted business with the government nearly a hundred years ago. The originals are in the hands of Isaac Craig, Esq., of Allegheny City:

UNITED STATES

To Congress an Indian Dr.

26th February 1796. To Bringing in two Stray Horses Delivered to Geo. Fowler  
A. Qr. M.....\$4.00

Fort Franklin 26th February 1796 Received of Isaac Craig D. Qr. M. General by  
the hands of George Fowler A. Q. M. four dollars in full of the above account.  
Dollars 4.

Duplicate

Congress X his mark

Attest

John McClary

THE UNITED STATES

To John Morrison Dr.

For Services as runner with public dispatches from Fort Franklin to Cussawaga  
from the 1st January to 30th June, 1796 at five dollars per month....Dollars 30

Fort Franklin 31 July, 1796, Received of Isaac Craig D. Q. M. General thirty  
Dollars in full for the above account  
30 Dollars.

John Morrison

THE UNITED STATES

To Zephaniah Branch Dr

For fifteen thousand Joint Chestnut Shingles for covering the Block houses &  
other buildings at Presqu' Isle at five & a half dollars per thousand  
.....Dolls. 82.50 cents

Presqu' Isle, 26th July, 1796, Received of Isaac Craig, D. Q. M. General Eighty  
two dollars & fifty cents in full for the above account.

\$ Dolls. 82.50 cents

Zephaniah Branch

## HOW CARTERVILLE ROSE AND FELL.

BY A. S. HOOKER, TROY.

About two miles below Roaring Branch, Lycoming County, Pa., and little over a mile above Ralston, on a romantic spot at a curve of the Lycoming, stand several deserted houses, whose windowless openings sometimes show a goat or some wild creature, and back of them stands a square built, solid stone furnace. It is an object that attracts much attention in this lonely spot. Across the valley is the deserted McIntyre coal plane, and higher up on the mountain the now deserted but once busy coal village. On the brow of the mountain, perched like the eyrie of some mountain bird, is the conical topped music stand and lookout which was a gala place in the days of McIntyre's prosperity. This iron furnace with its wide arched mouth gaping toward the passing trains, is, with the old weather painted houses, all that remains of Carterville. The Red Run Coal Company had opened a mine at this place, and in 1854 built a plane and run the mines for three years, getting out about 20,000 tons of coal and then abandoning the mine. A vein of reddish gray iron ore was opened, containing about thirty per cent. of metallic iron. Mr. Carter, of Tamaqua, built here an iron furnace of the Mauch Chunk sandstone, and called the place Carterville. It was ready for blast in 1854, but not put in blast in consequence of a dreadful tragedy in Philadelphia, resulting in the death by pistol shot of Carter. The old Carterville iron mines caved in and twenty years passed away, when a Mr. Williams, from Minersville, blew in the first blast, May 20th, 1874. For two months the furnace run with anthracite for fuel, operating on the "white ore," the red ore not being found good enough or too full of slate and clay, and with the ore used was mixed iron ore from York State. About 500 tons of the white ore was used, and then the furnace closed, probably never to open again. Thus ended the experiment of iron making on the Lycoming, stimulated as it was in an early day by seeing hundreds of tons of crude and bar iron hauled past these beds from Bellefonte by long strings of teams, from the foundries and shops of Troy, Athens and Towanda. A little ore was shipped from the Hayes mine, near Cogan Station, to Danville, and furnaces on the Susquehanna River were supplied from the Quiggleville mines west of Cogan Station.

## NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

MRS. ELIZABETH QUIGGLE, of Beech Creek, was 90 years old January 1st, 1888, having been born January 1st, 1798, in Nittany Valley. She is the widow of Nicholas Quiggle, deceased, and is the mother of six children, four of whom are living. She has twenty-one grandchildren, twenty-four great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. The *Lock Haven Express* thinks she is the oldest woman in that county. She has resided within the territory embraced in Clinton County all her life, and can relate many interesting incidents of early history. The venerable lady enjoys good health, has good eyesight, and her mental faculties are unimpaired. She spends much of her time in reading and delights to talk of the past.

DANIEL BECKLEY, ESQ., the well-known court crier, at Sunbury, Pa., was 86 years old on the 2d of February, 1888. Mr. Beckley served the people of Northumberland County several years ago as prothonotary and sheriff. His father moved to a farm below Milton in 1811, when Daniel was nine years old. His name was also Daniel. The ex-sheriff is active and sprightly for a man of his years, his voice is clear, his sight good, and he loves to meet and talk with his friends. As an officer of Judge Rockefeller's court he is always on duty, and opens and closes it with all the judicial dignity and solemnity that could be desired.

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## RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

JOHN KING, who died at his home in Piatt Township, Lycoming County, on the 10th of December, 1887, was a descendant of one of the early settlers in the West Branch Valley. His father, Robert King, was a native of Ireland, and, with two brothers, settled near Pine Creek in 1774. In a short time they abandoned their first settlement and located in Level Corner, Lycoming County. During the Indian wars they were driven off and the savages burned their cabins. On the restoration of peace they returned and soon after obtained a title from the State for 640 acres of land. Robert died on the land he had purchased, March 28th, 1848, aged 94 years, 7 months and 29 days, and was buried in the old cemetery, in Williamsport, near Lycoming Creek. John, the subject of this sketch, was born July 5th, 1794, and conse-

quently was 93 years, 5 months and 5 days old at the time of his death, having lived almost to the great age of his father. For 60 years he lived on the premises where he died. He was a quiet, unobtrusive man, seldom went away from home, and was a farmer by occupation. He married Miss Martha Marshall, a daughter of one of the pioneer settlers of this county. They raised three sons and five daughters, all of whom are living, except the youngest daughter. Mrs. King died more than 25 years ago. She joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1837, and in 1840 was followed by her husband. They lived devout Christian lives. For several years before his death Mr. King was almost totally blind.

JACOB L. MUSSINA, who died at his home in Williamsport on January 8th, 1888, aged 80 years, 8 months and 8 days, was a man of excellent standing and greatly respected. His father was a Pole and came to this country in 1786 and opened a store at Mifflinburg, Union County. He afterwards removed to Aaronsburg, Centre County, where the subject of this notice was born April 29th, 1807. At the age of 11 years he was left fatherless and thrown upon the world. He learned the trade of a jeweler in Bellefonte, came to Jersey Shore in 1828, and to Williamsport in 1830. After serving four years as clerk in the prothonotary's office he opened a jewelers' shop. He followed his trade for thirty-five years, built up a large and profitable business and retired in 1866. Mr. Mussina opened the first Daguerreotype gallery in Williamsport, in 1842, and was the first telegraph operator. He also organized the first band. During his long and useful life he held various positions of trust in civil and religious circles. He was a justice of the peace for ten years. For over thirty years he was trustee and secretary in the Pine Street M. E. Church, and for forty-three years he served as clerk to the return judges of the elections. He was a great lover of the mechanic arts and excelled in his trade. In 1834 he married Miss Jerusha P. Bailey, of Williamsport. She preceded him to the grave a short time ago. They had five sons and three daughters. Mr. Mussina acquired a handsome competence during his life, and passed away honored and respected by his fellow citizens.

THE wife of Coleman Huling, who died at her home near Charlton, Clinton County, on the 28th of December, 1887, was one of the oldest residents of Pine Creek Township. She was born

October 20th, 1813, at Dunnstown, and was married in 1833. In company with her husband she removed to Pine Creek Township in 1844, where she lived up to the time of her death. She was the mother of twelve children—nine sons and three daughters, nine of whom survive her with her aged husband. Deceased was a daughter of Captain Samuel Fagundus, who served with honor in the war of 1812.

### TOMBSTONE RECORD.

In the new cemetery at Milton, which occupies a lofty position overlooking the river, many of the early settlers in that part of the country are buried. A few names copied from the tombstones are given as follows:

GEN. HENRY FRICK  
Died at  
Washington City D. C.  
March 1, 1844.  
Aged  
48 y's. 11 mo. & 14 D's.

General Frick was a representative man in his day. He founded the *Miltonian* in 1816, and conducted it for several years. At the time of his death he was a member of Congress.

DR. JAMES S. DOUGAL  
Born  
Oct. 7, 1794,  
Died  
May 23, 1878.

He was one of the early physicians in that place and reached a high eminence in his profession. Many physicians now in active practice studied under him, and they all reverence his name.

In Memory of  
GEN. R. H. HAMMOND,  
Who Died  
On board Steamer Orleans  
from Vera Cruz, Mexico,  
June 2, 1847,  
Aged 56. 1 m & 4 Ds.

General Hammond was engaged in the Mexican war, and having been taken sick at Vera Cruz, died while en route for home.







**Rev. Joseph Painter, D. D.**

(See Page 359.)

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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Vol. 1.

MARCH, 1888.

No. 11.

## HISTORY

—OF—

## NORTHUMBERLAND PRESBYTERY.

BY REV. JOSEPH STEVENS, D. D.

GREAT ISLAND CHURCH.—This church, located in what is now the city of Lock Haven, was organized about the time of the organization of the churches of Lycoming and Pine Creek. These three churches were united under the pastorate of the Rev. Isaac Grier, who was their first pastor—from 1794 till 1806, when he resigned. This fact would seem to indicate that they commenced their careers as organized churches about the same date. It has been already noticed that before 1774 preachers had been sent more than fifty miles above the Buffalo Valley, in the valley of the West Branch. This distance would include the country lying between Lycoming and Great Island, and we find that about 1778 a Rev. Mr. Kinkaid preached in this region as an itinerant missionary. But at this date the population of this section of the country was very sparse, and it is not likely that any effort was made to gather the settlers into organized churches till a later date. We find in possession of the Great Island Church a subscription paper for the support of the gospel for one year, dated 1787. This is subscribed by forty-three names, and probably marks the first combined effort made by the people to secure occasional preaching. Robert Fleming and David Hannah are designated as the committee to whom the subscriptions were to be paid, and as these were

made in wheat, rye and corn, another committee, consisting of David Lusk, William Reed, Sr., and James Rodgers, is designated to convert this grain into money. Of course, it was not to be supposed that supplies, who should come among them and preach one or two sermons and then pass on to another community, could carry away with them bags of such produce, or would have the time to attend to the sale of it. When the settled pastor was paid in this way, he had usually himself to sell what of it his family did not need for their own consumption. In 1790, we find from the minutes of the General Assembly of that year, the Rev. Messrs. Nathan Ker and Joshua Hart were appointed to labor as missionaries in this region. It is altogether probable that these missionaries prepared for organization the three congregations to which the Rev. Isaac Grier was called in 1794, and that they were organized about the year 1792, as before stated.

Mr. Grier withdrew from the pastorate of this church a few years before he resigned the pastorate of Lycoming and Pine Creek, and transferred his residence to Northumberland. Then followed a vacancy of about eight years, when the Great Island united with the Pine Creek congregation in calling the Rev. John H. Grier. The call was made out in 1814, but was not put into his hands by the Presbytery till its spring meeting in 1815, and he was installed as pastor of these two congregations in August of the same year. Mr. Grier, as has been stated elsewhere in this narrative, was a native of Bucks County, Pa., but while he was yet a child, the family moved to Chester County, in the same State. It was there he grew up and entered on his preparatory course of education for college, in his 16th year. He graduated at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., in 1809, in the same class with the late President James Buchanan. He studied theology with the Rev. Nathan Grier, and was licensed in the spring of 1813. For further account of his life, work, and of his death refer to Part II. of this history.

Mr. Grier resigned the Great Island part of his charge in 1828, and was succeeded by the Rev. D. M. Barber. Just how long Mr. Barber continued in the pastorate we do not know. The church was no longer associated with any other charge in the support of a pastor, and being yet weak, and none of the people possessed of

large wealth, must have had a hard struggle to support a pastor. It had made reasonable progress, as things went in those days, but the people were not affluent, though they had great resources in the soil they possessed, and money of reliable value was the scarcest article among them, and the hardest to command. Mr. Barber was succeeded in the pastorate by the Rev. Alexander Boyd, who was installed in 1838, and resigned in 1844. Mr. Boyd was a good and worthy man, a forcible preacher, and a capable pastor. He died June 1st, 1845, while on his way home from the meeting of the General Assembly, to which he had been sent as a commissioner by the Presbytery. The next pastor to Mr. Boyd was the Rev. Slater C. Hepburn. He was a native of this interior section of Pennsylvania, belonging to one of its most prominent and respected families. Mr. Hepburn had visited the church in 1844 and engaged to supply it for two months. At the end of this engagement a call was made out for him, and in January, 1845, he, being a licentiate only, was ordained and at the same time installed. This service took place in the meeting house at Mill Hall, which was then included in the Great Island congregation. At this date Lock Haven was a small town, numbering about 700 inhabitants. Ten years before there was but one house and probably a dozen inhabitants in the place.\* The Church in that locality had worshipped in a log building situated on the hill, on the road leading to Flemington and Mill Hall. The founder of the town, Jerry Church, an eccentric but enterprising man, only got possession of the site on which it is located in April, 1834, though he had, by permission of the party from whom he purchased it, laid out some town lots in November preceding that date. The old church building on the hill had been abandoned before Mr. Hepburn came, and during his ministry the services were conducted, a part of the time, in the upper story of the Academy building, corner of Main and Vesper streets, and the other part of the time in the old Methodist Church building, which was rented for the half of each Sabbath. The church building on Water Street, below the canal, was not completed till about the time he left; his farewell sermon seems to have been the first preached in it. About the time Mr. Hepburn left Mr. Alexander McCormick bequeathed the sum of \$500 to the

\*Meginness' Otzinachson. Jerry Church's statement.

church, the interest of which was to be paid annually to the pastor. This was safely invested on real estate security, and the interest paid over as directed by the testator from April, 1850. Such bequests are in some cases valuable helps in efforts to sustain the preaching of the gospel among a people whose resources are limited; but in all cases they must be securely guarded and wisely managed, or more harm than good will be likely to ensue. The practice of endowing pastorates is not of frequent occurrence in the Presbyterian Church, and does not seem to be popular. With all its vast wealth, the Church in the United States has but few endowed pulpits, either in whole or in part, while experience does not seem to recommend this as a wise method of sustaining the gospel. In this particular case the amount bequeathed was small, perhaps just sufficient to yield an annual income equivalent to what the testator had been in the habit of giving to the support of the pastor in his life-time. Knowing that the church was then weak financially, and not foreseeing the rapid increase of population and resources which was to develop itself in the near future, he probably felt that he could not leave a better memorial of his interest in the cause of Christ in that community than the perpetuation of his usual contribution to the preaching of the Word. In any event, it was not to be regretted that the endowment was small.

The next pastor of this church was the Rev. Samuel A. Gayley. He was a graduate of Lafayette College, received his theological education at Princeton Seminary, and had been licensed to preach the gospel by the Presbytery of New Castle. He received the call in January, 1851, and was ordained and installed in the ensuing spring or summer. Mr. Gayley proved himself a faithful and useful pastor. He was an excellent preacher, an active, vigilant shepherd of the flock. Under his pastorate the church increased largely in all the elements of strength. In the five years of his pastorate the membership of the church was nearly doubled; the church building at Mill Hall was improved in appearance and comfort, and the one in Lock Haven was enlarged, its basement fitted out for a lecture and Sabbath School room, and a steeple and bell put upon it.

Each wing of the church had now become sufficiently strong to support a pastor for itself, and it was no longer for the interests of

religion that they should remain together. There was ample material for two churches within the territory covered by them, and their relative position was such as made separation both practicable and desirable. Accordingly in 1856 the Mill Hall part was set off by Presbytery as a separate charge, under the name of Bald Eagle and Nittany, and called the Rev. Henry L. Doolittle to be its pastor. The Lock Haven part retained the old name and title of Great Island, and after being vacant about a year, called the Rev. James H. Baird to its pastorate on the 11th of February, 1857. This pastorate was not conducive to the welfare of the church; its peace and comfort were greatly disturbed from causes which need not be discussed here, though in justice to the church it should be noted that these causes were not the fault of the people. At a congregational meeting held on the 26th of December, 1859, it was resolved to call the present pastor, the Rev. Joseph Nesbitt. In April of the following year the call was put into his hands by the Presbytery, and accepted by him, and he was installed on the 2d of May, 1860. Mr. Nesbitt is a native of the North of Ireland, was educated at Edinburgh, Scotland, and is a man of scholarly attainments. He is an able and popular preacher, and has served this church longer than any of his predecessors. Under his ministry the church has steadily advanced in all the elements of healthy growth. This is especially seen in the building of a large and commodious chapel; and then, some years later, the erection of a new and elegant church building, to which this chapel is attached, in a central and prominent locality of the city. In 1863 the congregation resolved to build this new church edifice, and sold their old building to the Lutherans, agreeing to give them possession in December of that year. This was in the midst of the civil war, when the whole nation was in a state of great excitement and public affairs and private business were alike subject to sudden and extreme changes. By the arrival of the time to commence the contemplated building, the price of labor and material had risen to such an excessive value that they were compelled to suspend their effort. After worshiping for more than a year and a half in a public hall, at great inconvenience and disadvantage, they erected a chapel—now used as the lecture room—which they used for all church purposes till their new house of worship was completed. In 1869 they resolved to proceed to complete the new building

according to the original plan, and in 1872 they met for the first time within its walls. The whole property—chapel, church and grounds—cost about \$42,000, the last dollar of which was provided for on the day of dedication. In the meantime, however, sometime in 1868, a difficulty arose in the church, in which two or more of the elders were concerned, touching the pastor, which resulted in an effort to establish another Presbyterian church in the city. As to the merits of this difficulty it is not needful that we should write; suffice it to say that the pastor offered his resignation, but the majority of the congregation would not accept it. The dissatisfied parties went out, applied to Presbytery for a new organization, which was eventually granted, purchased a church building of the Methodists, who had just completed a new and larger building for themselves in another part of the city, called a pastor in 1868 or 1869, and for a little while seemed to hold on their way tolerably well; but in the course of a year or two the pastor resigned and another was not called. Eventually the organization expired, and the most, perhaps all, who had entered into it, at length returned to the church and the pastor they had left. Since this affair came to an end the church has pursued its career in peace and harmony, and has made very commendable progress. May it never grow less, or halt in its onward course. The city of Lock Haven had a surprisingly rapid growth for a time, and attained to a population of about 9,000. The general depression of business and commercial crisis, which occurred a few years ago, affected its interests very sensibly, and diminished its population to a considerable extent; but the present revived state of business seems to be lifting it up to prosperity again, and may possibly settle it on a more solid business foundation than it has ever possessed. The people are beginning to interest themselves in manufacturing enterprises of a more general character, and if their efforts meet with no disaster they may soon enter on a career of prosperity which will largely increase their population. Already they have regained all and perhaps more than they had lost. If this prospect should be realized it is to be hoped the Presbyterians there will reach out and grasp with energy the opportunities that may fall in their way for the extension of Presbyterianism.



**MILL HALL AND NITTANY CHURCH.**—This church, as has been noted in the account of the Great Island Church, commenced its existence in December, 1856, and the Rev. Henry L. Doolittle was called the same year to be its first pastor. Mr. Doolittle came from Western New York, from the Presbytery of Susquehanna, if I am rightly informed. He was a very conscientious man, zealous and industrious, a forcible preacher, marked by some rather odd peculiarities. There was but little elasticity in him, or ability to accommodate himself to circumstances. Hence he failed to get a very deep hold of the people, and did not continue the pastor of this church very long. When he resigned he returned to Western New York, whence he came, where he shortly after died. After Mr. Doolittle's resignation the church was vacant for about two years, when the Rev. W. G. E. Agnew was called to its pastorate, in October, 1862. The name of this church was changed, at its own request, from Mill Hall and Nittany to Bald Eagle and Nittany, in November, 1856, at an adjourned meeting of Presbytery, held in Sunbury. Mr. Agnew, its second pastor, at the time of his call to its pastorate, was the principal of a female academy in the Tuscarora Valley. He was a refined scholar, and an industrious pastor, and served the church a greater number of consecutive years than any pastor it has had up to the present date. His wife having been called to her eternal rest, and his own health becoming impaired, he retired from the pulpit and made his home with his married daughter at Elizabeth, New Jersey, till he died. The successive pastors since Mr. Agnew's resignation have been Revs. Messrs. Warrington, Houghawought, Jenks, and the present incumbent, Rev. S. W. Pomeroy, who was installed over this and the Beech Creek Church, jointly, in 1886. The Bald Eagle and Nittany Church has a wide but laborious field open to its enterprise, owns a good and comfortable parsonage and is amply able to support a pastor.

**BEECH CREEK CHURCH.**—This is one of the younger churches of the Presbytery, organized May 25th, 1871. Its field of operation is somewhat circumscribed, and its financial ability has not been sufficient to support a pastor all his time, nor have the means of grace been enjoyed by it with much regularity since its organization. It owns a substantial brick church building, with convenient

arrangements for Sabbath School, &c., the fruit of the indefatigable efforts, and of the liberality of Mr. George Furst, its first elder, who in his will provided for all the debt with which it was encumbered. It is hoped that in its present alliance with Bald Eagle and Nittany it will have a more favorable career, and realize greater results than it has ever before enjoyed.

LYCOMING CENTRE CHURCH.—This church was organized in 1847, on territory hitherto belonging to the Lycoming Church. Its first elders were Isaiah Hays, Richard Hays and Isaiah Hageman. It has had a somewhat variable history—it has been at times self-sustaining, and then dependent on missionary support. The most of its territory is uninviting to settlers, and the population limited and changeable. It, however, covers a locality which has need of the administration of gospel ordinances, and should be sustained in its work, although it cannot be conveniently grouped with other organizations for mutual aid. There are some small churches within accessible distance, having a precarious existence, to which it might be a help, but from which it could hardly draw any appreciable pecuniary support. These are, Pennsdale, organized in 1847, located near Ralston, having at the time of its organization four elders and at the present time a pastor-elect in the person of the Rev. James Dickson, but not blessed with an encouraging future; Trout Run, also very feeble and with no encouraging future, organized in 1871, but seems to make no progress. There was also a church organized in this vicinity in 1871 called Mount Zion, and reporting three elders, but no longer recorded on the minutes of the General Assembly. The population in such regions as this need the institutions of the gospel, and should have them even though the means necessary for their support cannot be gathered on the field. It is the gospel rule that the strong must help the weak.

LINDEN CHURCH.—This church was organized in 1859. It is located nearly midway between Jersey Shore and Williamsport, and drew its original material chiefly from Lycoming and Jersey Shore congregations. It never has been entirely self-sustaining, though sometimes by allying itself with some other charge it has been able to support a pastor for half his time. The late lamented James D. Reardon supplied it in this capacity for sometime imme-

diately preceding his sudden death, and did a good work there. He was an industrious, painstaking pastor; a man whose heart was thoroughly engaged in his work; intelligent, conscientious and withal an able preacher. The day may not be very distant when this church will be able to sustain the stated means of grace, though it may have for a long time to submit to the inconvenience of having its congregation divided by the river, which, as long as it remains unbridged, will be difficult to cross in bad weather and always somewhat laborious.

**MONTOURSVILLE CHURCH.**—This church was organized June 14th, 1868. It is located in a beautiful village, which may be regarded as a suburb of Williamsport, though not within the incorporated limits of the city, and is doubtless destined to increase in population and business. This church was nurtured in its incipency by the pastors of the First Church of Williamsport, among whom the Rev. William Simonton rendered it efficient service, as did also the Rev. George F. Cain; while the present energetic pastor, the Rev. S. E. Webster, has been its prudent and useful counselor. Presbyterianism did not possess pre-emption right to the soil here, as it seems to have had in many of the towns of the West Branch Valley, hence this church has been feeble from its beginning and is not yet as perfectly cast in the Presbyterian mould as might be desirable; yet it has a future before it, and may in the course of time become a self-sustaining and important organization. It has made considerable progress already, and by uniting itself with the church at Montgomery Station, its most natural ally, it has been able to sustain the means of grace for a part of a pastor's time for several years.

**MONTGOMERY CHURCH.**—This church was organized in 1872. It is situated at Montgomery Station, a short distance below Muncy, on the Philadelphia and Erie railroad; and the Catawissa, or extension of the Reading road, also runs through the place. The town is small, but rather noted for its business activity and enterprise, and the church seems to partake somewhat of the spirit of the place. By uniting with Montoursville in supporting the gospel, it ought to be able to enjoy the administration of gospel ordinances at least for half of the time of a pastor.

WASHINGTON CHURCH.—This church is located in White Deer Valley, and takes its name from the township in which the church edifice stands. Like all the earlier churches of the Presbytery, the date of its organization is uncertain. Its existence may be coeval with that of Warrior Run and Chillisquaque, or it may have commenced its career several years later. There is no record of its organization, either in Gibson's History of the Huntingdon Presbytery, or in the old minutes of this Presbytery, till the call of the Rev. Mr. Hood to its pastorate, and his installation in 1805. He continued to serve this united charge till 1819, when he resigned the Washington pastorate and devoted an additional fourth of his time to the Milton part of his charge, and Washington applied to Presbytery for supplies. During the long interval from 1819 to 1834 this church seems to have been supplied by David Kirkpatrick one-half his time; for in the minutes of 1832 it is recorded: "Application was made from the congregations of Mifflinburg and Washington for one-half of Mr. Kirkpatrick's time, as usual, at each of those places." In 1834 the Rev. Isaac Grier (the late I. Grier, D. D.), then a young man, was called for half his time, which he accepted. The other half of his time he gave to Bethel Church, in White Deer Township, until the next spring, April, 1835, when Mr. Hood resigned the charge of Buffalo Church, after which he divided this half of his time between Bethel and Buffalo. Mr. Grier remained in charge of this church for half his time till October, 1852, when he accepted a call for all his time, and bestowed on it all his ministerial services. This last arrangement only continued one year, when Mr. Grier accepted a call for all his time from Buffalo, in which charge he continued till his death. Mr. Grier's successor was the Rev. J. N. Boyd, who came thither from Western New York, an excellent man and a good and efficient pastor. He did not remain many years, being called back by some family interests to his native region, where he soon after died. Mr. Boyd was followed by a Mr. Stergis, whose pastorate was very brief, and quite unfortunate for the church. The next pastor was the Rev. L. L. Haughawout, now of the Huntingdon Presbytery, who accomplished a good and worthy work there, and whose memory is still held in high esteem by many of the people. The successor to Mr. Haughawout was the Rev. J. W. Boal, who resigned in April of this year, 1887. He continued in the pastorate longer

than any one since Mr. Grier's day, and his departure, to take pastoral charge of the Lycoming Church, was universally regretted by the people to whom his useful labors had greatly endeared him. Although this church is seldom referred to in the early transactions of the Presbytery, and seems to have stood somewhat in the background when the surrounding country churches were large and prosperous, it has maintained a more successful existence and enjoyed a more comfortable old age than any country church within the limits of the Presbytery. White Deer Valley is one of those beautiful gems with which Nature has adorned herself in this interior region of Pennsylvania—a district of country pleasant to look upon and rich in agricultural resources. Its inhabitants value their homes and appreciate their religious privileges. They rally nobly around the old church; the congregations are large, the people intelligent, and work faithfully with their pastor in upholding and promoting the prosperity of the church. Few more desirable charges are anywhere to be found than this has been during the late pastorate of Rev. J. W. Boal.

**BETHEL CHURCH.**—This church, now and for many years extinct, may have had as early an origin as Washington Church. It is often mentioned in the old minutes in connection with other charges, but nothing is known of the date of its organization, or the exact locality it occupied. It seems to have died a quiet death and to have been buried without an obituary. It was probably swallowed up by Washington. In 1829 a petition was presented to Presbytery from Mooresburg and White Deer for the organization of churches in those places, which was granted. This was perhaps the White Deer Township Church, which does not seem to have attained to any importance or to have existed many years. The petition for organization reads as though it was from those two places jointly, but this could hardly have been the case, as Mooresburg is in the Chillisquaque region and not far from the old church.

**MOORESBURG CHURCH.**—This church, which began its organized existence in 1829, has preserved its identity and maintains the administration of gospel ordinances in connection with Chillisquaque. Its territory is limited and its growth must continue slow and small.

BERWICK CHURCH.—The following account of this church is communicated by the Rev. D. J. Waller, Sr., as from *History of Columbia and Montour Counties*, April, 1887: "On Saturday, November 24th, 1827, the Rev. Joseph N. Ogden, a Presbyterian clergyman, held services preparatory to communion, in the brick church building, which appears to have been regarded as a union meeting-house at that time. A congregational meeting was held after the close of the regular services, and it was unanimously decided to form a distinct Presbyterian church. William Wilson and Sarah Wilson became members of this organization, having previously been connected with the church at Abington, Pa.; Daniel Bourn was received from the Old South Church, Boston, Mass.; Isaac and Abigail Hart, from Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Mary and Eliza Pollock, from the Derry Church. The remaining members, Thomas and Eleanor Lockart, Emanuel Kirkenthall and Rachel Beach, had been received into the church by the Rev. John P. Hudson on a former occasion. It was resolved that the articles of faith and covenant for admission of members at Wilkes-Barre and Abington be adopted and enforced in a similar manner. The organization was completed on the following Sabbath, when Daniel Bourn, Isaac Hart and Thomas Lockart were installed as elders; and at a meeting of the session, February 19th, 1828, a request was formulated for admission into the Presbytery of Northumberland. June 20th the Rev. D. J. Waller entered a minute on the records of this congregation, in which he stated that the church had been for a long time without pastoral care, and as far as the manifestations of life were concerned, it was virtually extinct. The only knowledge of the facts above stated had been learned from Rev. D. Easton, of Conyngham, who sent Mr. Waller the record in which they were embodied. It contained the approval of the Moderator of the Presbytery, and he accepted this as sufficient evidence of the existence of an organization, although but two or three of its original members were longer residents of the town. At Mr. Waller's request the Rev. A. H. Hand took part of his extensive charge, entering at Berwick, July 7th, 1842. He at once agitated the erection of a church building, and with such success that on the 7th of October, 1843, the completed structure was dedicated by the Rev. J. W. Yeomans, D. D., president of Lafayette College. Its appearance was greatly improved in 1881, when the building

was completely remodeled and a tower of symmetrical proportions erected. The rededication occurred July 10th, 1881, when the Revs. D. J. Waller, S. Mitchell, D. D., C. K. Canfield and L. M. Kumler participated in the ceremonies. Many pastoral changes occurred in the years that intervened between these two events in the history of this church. Mr. Hand resigned on account of ill health, and, July 14th, 1845, a call was extended to the Rev. Alexander Heberton. He entered upon his pastoral duties August 1st, that year, and was installed on the 25th of November following. The Rev. T. H. Newton became pastor August 18th, 1853, having for the three years previous been seamen's chaplain at the Island of St. Thomas. The Rev. L. M. Kumler was installed pastor July 10th, 1881. His immediate predecessor was the Rev. James Dickson. Revs. James Kennedy, William Morgan, Joseph Marr, Edward Kennedy, James A. Salmon and P. M. Melick have also sustained pastoral relations to this church. The present incumbent, L. M. Kumler, has had encouraging success; the town has increased in population and wealth, and in sympathy with the improved material interests of the place, this church, under Mr. Kumler's ministry, has prospered both spiritually and materially.

**BRIAR CREEK CHURCH.**—This church runs back to an unrecorded date. We find frequent mention of it in the old minutes of the Presbytery, the first of which is in April, 1812, when the Rev. Asa Dunham was appointed to supply this church. It, therefore, may be classed among the oldest churches of the Presbytery. At frequent stated meetings after this we find Mr. Dunham appointed to supply this church. He was received into the Presbytery of Huntingdon in April, 1798, from the Presbytery of New Brunswick as an ordained minister. According to the records of the Huntingdon Presbytery, he was appointed by the General Assembly to labor with the Rev. John Patterson in Northumberland and Luzerne counties, and in 1799 he was appointed to labor at Fishing Creek. In Gibson's history of that Presbytery we find no mention of him except his admission into the Presbytery and his appointment to missionate for six months in the east end of the Presbytery, which appointment he reported himself unable to fulfil; at the time of and after the formation of the Presbytery of Northumberland he took a very active part in the affairs of Presbytery

and the care of its churches. He was made the first Moderator of the new Presbytery, and is found laboring among its poor and weak churches as a missionary—especially in the Briar Creek congregation and places in its vicinity. From the few fragments of history that remain of him, he appears to have been in some respects a remarkable man. When a youth he was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and fought in the ranks with his father at the battle of Monmouth. He was married five times, and had the misfortune to lose his fourth wife, his mother-in-law and two brothers-in-law by, or as the result of, the burning of his house.

Mr. Dunham seems to have been to the spiritually destitute regions on the West and North Branches of the Susquehanna what the famous Daniel Baker was, forty years ago or more, to the destitute population of the lower valley of the Mississippi—a general itinerant missionary, who traversed the territory, preaching wherever he could gather an audience, baptizing the children of those who desired or were willing to have them baptized, and doing needful clerical work wherever he found a call for it. He seems to have supplied Briar Creek, in part at least, for several years. In the fall of 1816 he preached his farewell sermon to these people, and when he died, nine years later, his remains were deposited in their burying-ground, where they lie, it is said, without monument or memorial stone, awaiting the resurrection of the just. He was about 73 years old when he died.

This church, though organized at a date beyond the memory of all the living, never attained to sufficient ability for independent self-support. It has always had a feeble existence and does not seem to possess much encouraging hope for the future. Doubtless a memorial of it is laid up with the Lord, and its name is written in the book of His remembrance: "And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels."

**BLOOMSBURG CHURCH.**—This is one of the younger among the sisterhood of churches under the care of the Presbytery, and yet, if its years be measured by the age of an individual, it would be called venerable. The Rev. D. J. Waller, Sr., who had been its pastor from 1839 to 1872, says, in his centennial sermon, in 1876, this church was "organized in 1817, with James McClure, Paul Leidy and Peter Pursell as elders, and at the same time steps were



taken for the erection of a church edifice." No mention is made of its organization in the minutes of the Presbytery of that date, nor of an application to that intent. At the April meeting of Presbytery, in 1818, we find this minute:

A call, directed to the Rev. Samuel Henderson, was presented to Presbytery from the united congregations of Shamokin, Bloomsburg and Briar Creek, in which said congregations promise to pay to Mr. Henderson five hundred dollars, in regular half yearly payments, in manner following, viz: Shamokin to pay one hundred and seventy dollars; Bloomsburg, one hundred and sixty dollars, and Briar Creek, one hundred and seventy dollars.

The installment of Mr. Henderson was appointed to take place at the "Briar Creek Church, on the first Tuesday of October, next ensuing, if the way be clear." This is the first mention of the existence of a congregation at Bloomsburg in the Presbyterial records, and from this time onward it is spoken of as the Bloomsburg Church. As this is within the epoch of authentic history in respect to Presbyterial transactions in this part of Pennsylvania, it must be accepted as reliable. It does not prove that the Bloomsburg Church was not organized in 1817, but it indicates that there was either some irregularity about it, or an unusual neglect on the part of Presbytery to record the act. At the time of the organization of the church a lot for a church site and burying-ground was purchased, and steps taken for the erection of a church edifice, to be of the dimensions of 36 x 40 feet and two stories high, with deep gallery on three sides. During the erection of this building the congregation worshiped in the Episcopal church building, for the use of which, for one-third of the time, they paid a rent of \$7 per year. This was a small sum for so great a privilege, as it must have been, in the eyes of Episcopalians, of using their consecrated house for worship, by a sect not recognized by them as a church. It was a very unchurchly transaction.

In 1822 Mr. Henderson was arraigned at the bar of Presbytery on a charge of improper conduct, preferred against him by some of his Briar Creek congregation, was found guilty and suspended from the functions of the gospel ministry. A few months after, on the petition of the people, he was restored to full standing, and continued to preach in Bloomsburg until 1824. This was the second time Mr. Henderson was suspended from the office of the ministry for conduct unbecoming his official character and position.

He was succeeded by the Rev. John Niblock, who at the same time preached at Berwick, for two years, sustaining an excellent reputation as a man, and leaving behind him a cherished memory. The next pastor was the Rev. James Lewers. He was a native of Ireland, a brother to the wife of the late Rev. John Gray, D. D., of Easton, Pa.; a typical Irishman, of quick and strong impulses, who could as readily strike a blow with his fist, under provocation, as utter a Hibernicism with his tongue. He possessed much of the sprightliness and poetic faculty of his gifted sister, and was an attractive and popular preacher, though not a man of high spiritual tone. Mr. Lewers was followed by a Mr. Crossby, an Eastern man, who was largely devoted to Sabbath School work. Then followed the Rev. Matthew B. Patterson, who wrought as a missionary at Bloomsburg and in the valley of Fishing Creek for a short time. He was a son of the Rev. John B. Patterson, one of the fathers of the Presbytery. He was followed by the Rev. Robert Bryson, who seems to have been a young man of much promise, but was soon overtaken by disease, of which he died. He was a son of the Rev. John Bryson, who is known to the present generation as the venerable pastor of the Warrior Run congregation, and one of the original five constituent members of the Presbytery. In 1832 John P. Hudson entered upon an engagement as stated supply to Bloomsburg, Briar Creek and New Columbia, and as a missionary in the valley of Fishing Creek. Mr. Hudson is a native of Staunton, in the Valley of Virginia, a graduate of the Theological Seminary at Princeton, New Jersey, and had devoted some time to giving classical instruction before he entered upon the work above mentioned. He is a fair type of the Virginia style of a gentleman, genial, companionable and possesses a reputation for accurate classical scholarship. His labors in this field were attended with good success, and the church was revived and strengthened. In the spring of 1838 Mr. Hudson received a call to the church at Williamsport, now the First Church of that city. His friends at Bloomsburg, and the other congregations which he had been supplying, desired to retain him, and made considerable effort to do so. They offered the same amount of salary that the Williamsport church offered, and proposed to install him in the pastorate, but he accepted the call at Williamsport. The Rev. Mr. Toby followed Mr. Hudson in a brief ministry as a supply, and he was succeeded

by the Rev. D. M. Barber, a popular preacher and a useful man. Mr. Barber had established a boarding school for young ladies at his farm, above Washingtonville, and he found it not expedient to give up his school, while the people of Bloomsburg wanted a minister to live among them; hence he withdrew, and the field was again left vacant. In 1838 a unanimous call was extended from Bloomsburg, Berwick, Briar Creek and the Fishing Creek Mission to Mr. D. J. Waller, a licentiate of the Presbytery of New Castle, who had been about one year out of the Theological Seminary at Princeton, New Jersey. They offered him a salary of \$600 per year, the same that had been offered to Mr. Hudson, which was in those days considered a good and sufficient support. He accepted the call and was ordained and installed on May 1st, 1839.

Thus commenced a pastorate which lasted more than thirty years, comprehending a vast range of country, and, as Mr. Waller himself says,\* "full of labors, of trials and of love." This pastorate proved a great blessing to this extensive charge, both spiritually and temporally. The pastor held on his way bravely, amid discouragements of a formidable character, conquering obstacles which to many a man would have been insurmountable, and lifting the church and the community up in the scale of mental, moral and religious development, as few men could have done. Mr. Waller proved himself to be the right man in the right place throughout his long ministry in this charge. Doubtless the providence of God sent and kept him there through all those years of toil and sacrifice, because he was in all respects so perfectly adapted to the exigencies of the field. He had several opportunities of changing the locality of his labors, having received calls to churches of greater apparent promise and of lighter labors than this; but he remained, indifferent to all human inducements to the contrary, where the Master had placed him till his work was done, and now in his declining years can contemplate, with comforting satisfaction, the fruitful results of his protracted pastoral life. Under his ministry the church at Bloomsburg not only became amply self-sustaining, but, at length, stepped to the fore front of all the churches of the Presbytery in the department of benevolent contributions, which position it maintained till the churches of the city of Wil-

\*See his centennial sermon, 1876.

liansport, through the great increase of that place in population and wealth, were recently enabled to outstrip it. Mr. Waller resigned this charge in April, 1871, and in October, 1872, the present pastor, the Rev. Stewart Mitchell, was called and installed, who has efficiently taken up and prosecuted the successful work of his predecessor. This church is not strong in the number of its communicants, reporting only 170, but it worships God by giving of its substance to benevolent objects every Sabbath, and its liberality is worthy of the highest commendation. Last year, 1887, it gave nearly \$700 to foreign missions, nearly the same amount to domestic missions, and with proportionate liberality to all the other objects of benevolence presented by the General Assembly to its churches for their support.

**NEW COLUMBIA CHURCH.**—This church was organized June 15th, 1825. It was included in the extensive field belonging to the Briar Creek Church, which the Rev. Asa Dunham so often supplied previous to 1816, has always been feeble, irregularly supplied and inactive. Several times it has tried to maintain a pastor in connection with other charges, but soon became weary of the effort. Once or twice revivals have occurred in it which seemed to promise a better future, but have soon died out and left it stagnant. Its great sin seems to be the absence of the spirit of giving to the support of the Lord's work. Its existence is precarious. In 1886 it reported to Presbytery thirty members and no gifts to benevolent objects.

**SUGARLOAF CHURCH.**—This church was organized in 1859. It is located somewhere in the vicinity of the old-time Briar Creek Church territory. It is not reported on the minutes of Presbytery of recent years and may be regarded as extinct, or, perhaps, has become identified with Raven's Creek Church, which reports seventeen members and a Sabbath School of fifty members, with about \$73 raised for religious purposes in 1886.

**ROHRSBURG CHURCH.**—This church was organized in 1847. It reported, in 1886, five elders, thirty-seven communicants, eighty-eight members in its Sabbath School, and raised about \$136 for all religious purposes.

**MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH.**—This church was organized in April, 1871. It no longer appears in our Presbyterian reports, and seems to have been handed over to the Luzerne Presbytery. Presbyterianism seems not to have flourished in the territory covered by the Old Briar Creek congregation to the extent it has in other sections of the Presbytery. There have been several churches organized on this ground, but, excepting Bloomsburg and Berwick, perhaps we may now add Orangeville, none are self-sustaining. The old mother church itself seems to be so burdened with the infirmities, and enfeebled by the decrepitude of age, that she can only keep herself on her feet by leaning on the Presbytery as a staff; and her daughters, with the above exceptions, are afflicted with a sickly and declining life that can only be preserved by continued Presbyterian nourishing. Whatever the cause of this condition of things may be, it would seem to furnish a strong argument in favor of that growing modern movement towards denominational union among Protestants, even to the extent of organic unity which would coalesce them all into one body. Here is a large district of country dotted over with churches of various names and denominational peculiarities, all of them feeble and inefficient. Their adherents are only casually, and often very indifferently supplied with the preaching of the gospel and the administration of its ordinances; whereas, if they were all united in one church, they could support a competent and efficient ministry, without burdening their financial ability and dissipating their well-meant efforts to promote religious instruction in the community.

**DERRY CHURCH.**—This church was probably organized by the Donegal Presbytery not later than 1792 or 1794. It is mentioned in the records of the Presbytery of Carlisle, which commenced its existence in 1786, as though it had existed before the Presbytery itself. Like all the older churches of the Presbytery, the date of its organization and its early history are somewhat mythical. We find no mention of it, worthy of notice, till the Rev. John B. Patterson was called to and installed over it, in conjunction with Mahoning, in 1799. He continued in this united charge till 1831, when the pastoral relation between him and the Mahoning Church was dissolved. Henceforth he devoted all his time to the Derry Church, where he labored successfully till he died in 1843, aged

about 71 years. Like Asa Dunham, he also took part in the Revolutionary war as a common soldier. His life and character are described in another part of this history.

In Mr. Patterson's day the Derry congregation was one of the largest in the Presbytery. During the ministry of his immediate successor, Mr. Rittenhouse, it still retained its large numbers, but after his death, which took place very suddenly as he was passing through the church door on a Saturday when services were being held preparatory to communion, the congregation began to decline from various causes, the chief of which, perhaps, was the removal of Presbyterian families from the community. At the present time it is but the shadow of its former self. Many sacred memories cluster around this old church, and from it some good and useful men have gone out to serve the Church and the Nation. Since Mr. Rittenhouse's death it has had a number of pastors and supplies, and finds it difficult to sustain a pastor for the half of his time.

WASHINGTONVILLE CHURCH.—This church was organized in 1859. It is an offshoot of the Derry Church; was included within its territory, and its natural affinity is with Derry, hence it has ever since its organization been united with Derry in the support of a pastor—neither of them being able to maintain the regular ministrations of the gospel alone, and both together affording a meagre and irregular support when united. It seems to have been the practice of the Presbytery of Northumberland, from its earliest days, to multiply church organizations by dividing up the territory covered by the original churches committed to its care, thus weakening the mother church, and burdening its roll with a large number of feeble congregations requiring to be fostered by outside aid, and in many cases ceasing to exist after years of struggle and the expenditure of large sums of missionary money. It is a doubtful policy. It tends to dissipate the pecuniary ability of the people of these regions to support the gospel, multiplies their financial burdens, and raises up antagonizing interests which produce jealousies and often injurious competition. Whereas, if they would preserve the integrity of their organizations and establish preaching stations at convenient points in their large territories, they would concentrate the power of the people to support and propagate the gospel. If the matter were carefully inquired into, it

would probably be found that the number of these organizations above referred to, which have died out and utterly disappeared, together with those still on the roll of the Presbytery which are in a languishing and dying state, exceeds the whole number of churches now under its care. It is idle to say that Presbyterianism has not lost ground by this policy, for the people of many of these dead churches have identified themselves with other denominations from the sheer hopelessness of the effort to preserve their own organizations. In some cases the population may so shift its position as to make it expedient to remove the main church building to another part of the field, or it may concentrate at a certain point in sufficient numbers to occupy all the time and efforts of one pastor. In such cases why not preserve the one organization by a system of assistants or co-pastors, and thus still care for the interests of the whole field?

SHILOH, OR ST. MARY'S CHURCH.—This church was organized in 1867. It has not had a vigorous or progressive existence, nor could such be expected from the nature of its case. Its locality is in a Roman Catholic community—a small town in Elk County, Pa., organized by a Catholic proprietary about the time the Philadelphia and Erie railroad was built through that region. There are, at this date, two Roman Catholic churches in the place, a convent and other Catholic institutions. It is the centre of a small coal mining interest, and the Presbyterian church depends on the Scotch and Welsh miners and the few Protestant business men drawn there by the mining operations for its material and support. It is legitimately missionary ground, and should be occupied by an able and efficient pastor. The earliest pioneer of Presbyterianism in this place was the late Rev. David Hull. He was sent by the Presbytery to missionate along the line of the Philadelphia and Erie railroad about 1865 or 1866. He organized the church at St. Mary's and succeeded in erecting the church building with funds collected among the churches of the Presbytery and in Philadelphia, with a small amount from the field itself. They have a creditable and substantial church building. Mr. Hull was succeeded by the Rev. John B. Rendall, now president of the Lincoln University, who labored here in connection with *Renovo* and *Emporium* as a domestic missionary for a year or more, and wrought a

good work. The late Revs. Messrs. Sturges, James D. Reardon and Robert White, as pastors, also labored there. The pastor who preceded the present occupant of the pulpit was the Rev. S. T. Thompson, who labored with much energy and success till failing health compelled him to retreat from the field. The strong staff and main support of this church was the late Elder Joseph Patton, superintendent of the mining operations in the vicinity, who deserves great credit for the energy and wisdom with which he looked after its interests.

EMPORIUM CHURCH.—This church was organized in 1867. It was a result of the same missionary effort, under the auspices of the Presbytery, that originated the Shiloh, or St. Mary's Church. The same missionaries organized and fostered it in the early days of its history. This church has never been self-sustaining, and has had a variable existence. It is located in the county seat of Cameron County, but the population of the town is small, the surrounding country much broken, and not very productive, and the people poor. It is possible that there may yet be found beneath the surface of this rough and mountainous country a deposit of wealth which will cheer and give importance to this feeble and struggling church.

RENOVO CHURCH.—This church was organized in 1866, with eleven members and one elder. It was one of the fruits of the same Presbyterian missionary effort that gave existence to the two preceding organizations. The same missionaries in their turn occupied the ground in the incipiency of the enterprise, but the church was organized, and the building commenced during the administration of Mr. Sturges, who was received into the Presbytery from the Classis of Raritan. Mr. Sturges' ministry at Renovo was not a success. The infant church became overwhelmed with disasters of one sort or another, and its financial affairs almost inextricably confused. It was finally involved in a law suit with Mr. Sturges, and its prospects for a season were very gloomy and discouraging. The Presbytery pledged itself for one-half of the missionary's promised salary, which it promptly paid. The other half he was to collect on the ground, which he agreed to do, after a general consultation with the people. The amount it was thought could easily be raised, though no positive pledge was given. The



church had not yet been organized, though the most of the material for a house of worship had been collected by the missionary, who was authorized by the Presbytery to visit its churches for the purpose of raising means for its erection; but before Mr. Sturges made an effort to collect his part of the salary which was to come from the people, he became so offensive to them that they would not attend his services nor pay any part of the money that was expected of them. After the church became organized by the election of trustees and other officers, Mr. Sturges sued for the unpaid half of his salary, and the court charged the jury that as this man had done the work for which he had been employed he was entitled to his pay, and the church was compelled to pay it. After much anxious effort on the part of the little organization to raise the means to meet this judgment, through the generous kindness of James McCormic, Esq., of Harrisburg, who loaned them the necessary amount at a low rate of interest and on long time, they were enabled to pay it off. The ladies of the little church, by their indefatigable industry, together with a generous gift from Mr. McCormic, liquidated the indebtedness in the course of a few years, since which there has been a commendable progress in all the elements of church strength and usefulness. Under the ministry of its present able and industrious pastor, the Rev. John D. Cook, the church has largely increased in numbers and financial ability, and fills an important place in that growing and energetic community. It is now self-sustaining, has a substantial and commodious church edifice, a harmonious congregation and a large Sabbath School.

**NORTH POINT CHURCH.**—A committee to organize a church at this place reported at the April meeting of Presbytery, in 1864, the organization of this church, with twelve members and two elders. In 1867 it was "resolved that the congregations worshipping at North Point and Renovo be known upon our records as the Church of North Point and Renovo, inasmuch as there have never been two organizations." At the present time North Point is dropped from the records and Renovo is retained. North Point is but a short distance from Renovo, and having no prospects of much future enlargement, should be cared for as an out-station of that church.\*

\*See minutes of 1864, pages 332, 339 and 404.

**HYNER'S RUN CHURCH.**—This church was organized about the time of the organization of North Point, and recommended to the Board of Church Extension for aid in erecting a building, but has passed from the annual records of Presbytery, as has also the church organized in 1866, at Shinstown, which also received aid from the same board.

**THE FIRST CHURCH OF WILLIAMSPORT.**—This church was organized February 23d, 1833. Previous to this date the Presbyterian inhabitants of the town worshiped at Newberry with the Lycoming Church. The town of Williamsport was laid out in 1795, as the seat of justice for Lycoming County, at the time the county was organized. For thirty-eight years after the town was incorporated the old Lycoming Church continued to be the Mount Zion to which its Presbyterian population, and that of its vicinity, went up to worship. The people of that early day were strangers to that nervous energy which characterizes the inhabitants of the present day—leaping and dashing onward in the business enterprises of life, as if there were to be no future opportunities for progress, or the acquisition of the means of living. They moved forward slowly, and were satisfied with moderate results. Thirty-eight years would seem a long time in these modern days for the Presbyterians of a county town to await a church organization, especially if the largest part of the population were of their creed.

The Rev. Daniel M. Barber was appointed, by Presbytery, chairman of the committee to organize a church at Williamsport, and he reported, at the date above mentioned, an organization with thirty-eight members, who were received chiefly from Lycoming Church, and the following elders, viz.: Alexander Sloan, Andrew D. Hepburn, John Torbert and John B. Hall. The services of ordination were held in an old stone church on Third Street, where the Reformed Church now stands, owned by the German Lutherans and the Reformed, which the Presbyterians had helped to complete on the condition that they should have the privilege of using it when the owners did not need the use of it. From 1833 to 1837 the Revs. D. M. Barber, Phineas B. Marr and G. G. Shedden supplied the pulpit of the newly organized church, and in the fall of 1837 the Rev. J. P. Hudson was called to be its pastor, who remained with them in that capacity three years. In 1841 the

church began to erect its first building, and finished it the ensuing year. This building was destroyed by fire in April, 1849, and the one erected in its stead, on the same site, was in like manner destroyed in 1859. After this second disaster it was immediately rebuilt and occupied in the ensuing October by the Synod of Philadelphia, which had appointed its meeting there before the fire took place. The pastors of this church to the present time have been the Revs. J. P. Hudson, E. B. Bradbury, Alexander Heberton, William Simonton, William A. Kerr, George F. Cain and S. E. Webster, D. D., the present incumbent, whose wise and indefatigable efforts have been blessed with wonderful success. Mr. Webster was installed in October, 1880, and immediately entered on the work of his ministry with his characteristic energy. His fervent zeal and persuasive pulpit efforts have awakened an intenser spiritual life in the people; while under his industrious and efficient leadership they have become a congregation of willing workers, always ready to co-operate with their pastor in every good work. In May, 1884, they completed and dedicated a new and splendid church edifice, with all the modern arrangements and appliances for church work, which is surpassed by none in the largest towns of the interior of Pennsylvania. In the seven years Dr. Webster has been pastor of this church there have been 253 persons added to its membership, and its benevolent contributions have largely increased. The congregation also maintains and carries on with vigor and success, a mission Sabbath School in the upper part of the city, which promises to become the nucleus of a church for that district. As has been noticed in another part of this history, this church has not been without its trials and discouragements, but the hand of a gracious providence led it safely through the wilderness and brought it at last into a large and wealthy place. It has before it an inviting field, and every inducement to press forward in its good work with the sure promise from the Master whom they serve: "Them that honor me will I honor."

(CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH.)

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ONE number more and the first volume of THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL will be completed. The last number will contain the title page and index, when the volume will be ready for the binder. It will make a handsome and valuable book.

## WARRIOR RUN GRAVEYARD.

BY H. T. ECKERT.

ON a bleak March morning, with the snow and sleet struggling in fitful, angry gusts for mastery, in company with a friend we visited this widely known spot. Here, secluded and away from the busy haunts of men, rest those who in the past lived, loved, planned, executed, hated, avenged, fought, and, as we see recorded, died as all must till time shall be no more, and judging from the peaceful quiet, "After life's fitful fever they sleep well." Side by side the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; the former marked by time-stained, mildewed slabs of granite and brown flag-stone, on which epitaphs "spelt by the unlettered muse" can scarcely be deciphered. Here sleep the Montgomerys, Armstrongs, Peipers, Wykoffs, Cooners, Vincents, Watsons and Bradys of Revolutionary fame. Now all heart burnings are at an end, and friend and foe, rich and poor, high and low, simple and proud, moulder, decay and are forgotten together.

The old Warrior Run Church, close by, sheltered by a grove of white oaks, seems to keep a peaceful and parental vigil over her former worshippers. How oft have her doors opened as the hushed throng filed slowly down her aisles in subdued quiet, awed by the awful presence of death, and listening with bated breath as the man of God solemnly reads: "I am the resurrection and the life; blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." "Be ye therefore ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." These and many other passages of hope, consolation and warning; and when infancy and childhood swelled the already overcrowded spot, and stricken parents in sombre robes of woe followed a darling—mayhap a first-born—have heard the comforting words: "He is not dead but sleepeth; wherefore weep? He cannot come to us, but we can go to him." Such blessed passages have lifted the sinking hopes and poured balm on the wounded and heart-broken mourner.

In a far corner we are attracted by a heap of freshly dug earth, and winding our way through a wilderness of tombstones, stand by the side of a newly made grave, and, lost in solemn reverie, gaze into the narrow home of some one just gone to solve the old, yet always new, problem. While deep in thought, we are startled by a noise at the entrance gate, and looking up see the old sexton, with bent and trembling form, open them, and then for the first

time we behold in the distance, on an eminence, the sombre cortege of death dragging its slow length along. As they enter and near the grave, we instinctively draw back, leaving room for those more near and dear. As the coffin is rested by the grave side, low heart-breaking wails of anguish burst forth from the already overwept mourners. Then as the hollow rattle of clods on the coffin lid and "dust to dust, ashes to ashes" break the stillness, grief afresh breaks forth with a resistlessness that all have noticed, and as the hushed throng hangs on the prayer, "Hope springs exultant on triumphant wing," and grief is tempered by blessed hope. While the stricken family turn sadly and reluctantly away to the now desolate home, the sexton, with a business-like air, takes his spade, and humming some old tune long out of print, fills the grave. As the sleet is driving afresh in our face, we quietly leave this sadly interesting place, once more to mingle in the bustling world, till we ourselves are called to pay the debt of nature.

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It is frequently stated in newspapers and other publications that Lycoming County was erected in 1796. This is an error. Senator William Hepburn introduced the bill for the formation of Lycoming from Northumberland County in the winter of 1795. It passed both houses of the Legislature and was signed by Governor Thomas Mifflin, April 13th, 1795, and on the 18th of the same month it was recorded in Deed Book A, pages 1 and 2, by John Kidd, who was appointed by the Governor to open the books for the new county. Any one doubting this is requested to step into the office of the Register and Recorder in the Lycoming County Court House and examine the deed book. Following the record of the act erecting the county will be found the commissions of Samuel Wallis, William Hepburn, John Adlum and James Davidson, who were appointed by Governor Mifflin associate judges, to put the judicial machinery of the new county in operation. Their commissions bear the same date of record as the act of organization, and they soon afterwards met at Jaysburg and organized by electing William Hepburn president. So good an authority, apparently, as Smull's Legislative Handbook, falls into this common error and gives 1796 as the date when Lycoming was organized. THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL calls attention to this for the purpose of correcting an error which has gone so long without contradiction that it has crept into State publications.

# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

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JOHN F. MEGINNESS, *Editor and Publisher*,  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

WILLIAMSPORT, MARCH, 1888.

## WILLIAMSPORT AND NEWBERRY POSTMASTERS.

Previous to the year 1799 the inhabitants of the West Branch Valley had to go to Northumberland for their mail matter. Although Muncy was a thriving town from a very early day, no post-office was established there until the year 1800.

The town of Jaysburg was laid out for Jacob Latcha, proprietor, by William Ellis, deputy surveyor, in the year 1794, but never had a postoffice. The town of Williamsport was laid out by Joseph Williams, surveyor, for Michael Ross, proprietor, in 1796, and the first postoffice was established August 12th, 1799. The names of the successive postmasters of Williamsport, and the dates of their appointments, are shown below, as obtained from the records at Washington:

Samuel E. Grier.....	Appointed	Aug. 12, 1799.
Henry Hughes.....	"	No date.
Hepburn McClure.....	"	May 18, 1839.
Joseph K. Frederick.....	"	July 1, 1841.
Joseph S. Titus.....	"	Aug. 30, 1843.
Jeremiah J. Ayres.....	"	July 29, 1845.
Chauncey Donaldson.....	"	May 8, 1849.
Charles Kalbus.....	"	Jan. 6, 1852.
Jacob S. Maxwell.....	"	May 5, 1853.
Theodore Wright.....	"	Jan. 12, 1855.
Thomas Throp.....	"	Sept. 3, 1855.
" ".....	Re-appointed	Feb. 21, 1856.
" ".....	"	Feb. 21, 1860.

John R. Campbell.....	Appointed	April 30, 1861.
Horace E. Taylor.....	"	Aug. 8, 1865.
Jacob Sallada.....	"	Aug. 27, 1866.
Jeffrey C. Ayres.....	"	April 20, 1867.
John S. Grafius.....	"	April 5, 1869.
Robert Hawley.....	"	July 30, 1869.
" " .....	Re-appointed	Jan. 8, 1874.
" " .....	"	Jan. 23, 1878.
Frank J. Burrows.....	Appointed	Jan. 19, 1882.
William F. Logan.....	"	Feb. 10, 1886.

This shows that in a period of nearly eighty-nine years Williamsport has had twenty-three postmasters, but several of them were re-appointed. Henry Hughes appears to have served the longest, but as no date of his appointment is given, it cannot be told how long he had charge of the office. It must have been for a great many years, however, as he was only succeeded in 1839, forty years after the appointment of his predecessor. If the date of Mr. Grier's retirement were known, the record would be complete. There are a few yet living who remember Henry Hughes. He lived in a log house on East Third Street, opposite the present postoffice, which was kept as a hotel. The same building is still there, but it is weather-boarded. The room in which the postoffice was kept is now used for a lager beer saloon. Hughes had a corner of the bar room fenced off where he kept the postoffice. At that time the mail matter could be carried in a pair of saddlebags. The contrast between *then* and *now* is very great.

Of the twenty-three appointees, the majority are now dead. The oldest living of the number is Hepburn McClure, Esq., and he is in his 78th year. He was appointed under the administration of Van Buren, to succeed Hughes, and removed when Harrison was elected. When first appointed he changed the office to a frame building which stood on the site now occupied by the hardware store of Kline & Co. He introduced great improvements, by having letter boxes, with glass in front, so that the letters and papers could be seen. The office at that time only paid about \$800 per annum. During his postmastership a singular circumstance occurred. The contractor, who carried the mail to Elmira, died. In due time a letter came from the Department directing Postmaster McClure to announce a letting. He did so, and "Ben" Hall obtained the contract, gave bail and entered upon his duties. In a

short time Mr. McClure received another letter from the Department inquiring who gave him authority to announce a letting and give out a contract. He referred the Department to the previous letter directing him what to do. That settled it. He never heard from the Department again on that subject. It is supposed that a clerk, unfamiliar with the law, had committed the blunder, and it was allowed to rest.

Jeremiah Jeffrey Ayres and Jeffrey C. Ayres were one and the same person. His proper name was Jeremiah Jeffrey, but the Department got the name so "twisted up" that one unacquainted with the facts might think there were two persons. Captain Ayres often facetiously remarked that the military Presidents seemed to have a "spite at him," because he was removed under the administrations of both Taylor and Grant. He had been appointed captain of a military company by Governor Marey, of New York, before he removed to Williamsport; but his military title was not taken into consideration when a change was made. He belonged to the old school of Democrats. Captain Ayres was the first bookseller in Williamsport. He died August 24th, 1880, and is well remembered.

Theodore Wright, who was appointed in 1855, and served from January to September of that year, is now the editor of the *Philadelphia Record*. Robert Hawley, Esq., after Henry Hughes, served the longest, his incumbency of the office reaching from July 30th, 1869, to January 19th, 1882, a period of over twelve years.

Newberry was laid out for John Sutton, by William Ellis, in 1795, and, although one year older than Williamsport, did not have a postoffice established until April 5th, 1824, or twenty-three years later. The names of the postmasters and the dates of their appointments, as they appear on the records of the Postoffice Department at Washington, are as follows:

John Sloan.....	Appointed April 5, 1824.
John Murphy.....	" Aug. 25, 1824.
Samuel Caldwell.....	" May 15, 1829.
James Cummings.....	" Aug. 1, 1833.
Nicholas Funston.....	" Oct. 30, 1835.
James Cummings.....	" Aug. 12, 1841.
Mary Ann Cummings.....	" May 23, 1842.
Lindsay Mahaffey.....	" April 12, 1850.
James C. Funston.....	" June 1, 1853.



John F. Stevenson.....	Appointed June 8, 1857.
William J. Mahaffey.....	" April 14, 1860.
William Colt.....	" Dec. 21, 1863.
David Showers.....	" Oct. 1, 1866.
Rebeca Showers.....	" June 28, 1867.
William Colt.....	" June 10, 1869.
John P. Fisher.....	" Aug. 21, 1885.

From the above it will be seen that in a period of almost sixty-four years, Newberry has had sixteen postmasters. Two out of the number served twice, and Mary Ann Cummings served the longest—nearly eight years.

### REV. JOSEPH PAINTER, D. D.

BY JOHN F. MEGINNESS.

ONE of the old-time ministers who served as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Newberry, was the Rev. Joseph Painter, D. D.\* He was a son of Jacob and Deborah Painter, and was born May 21, 1799, in Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Of his youth, until he arrived at the age of sixteen, very little is known. In early life he was left an orphan, and he spent a portion of his time on a farm, or clerking in a store near Easton. At the age of seventeen he commenced his studies in the classics, literature and sciences, at the Amwell Academy, New Jersey, and soon after he entered this institution he made choice of his profession.

Having finished his academic course he entered the Sophomore class in Union College, Schenectady, September 22d, 1819, where he graduated in July, 1822. The two years following his graduation were spent in Danville, Pennsylvania, in the family of Rev. Isaac Grier, teaching an academy, and studying theology privately under the direction of Rev. John B. Patterson, for many years the pastor of the Mahoning Church in that place.

On the 17th of November, 1824, he was united in marriage to Miss Hannah, fourth daughter of Rev. John S. Vredenburgh, pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church in Somerville, New Jersey, and granddaughter of Rev. James Caldwell, who was inhumanly mur-

\*See memorial sermon of Rev. T. D. Ewing, delivered at Kittanning, November 16th, 1873. Mr. Ewing is now president of Parson's College, Fairfield, Iowa, having resigned his charge at Kittanning in 1879.

dered by a drunken Hessian sentinel, at Elizabethtown Point, New Jersey, November 24th, 1781.

Rev. Painter was taken under the care of the Presbytery of Northumberland, October 7th, 1823, and subjects were assigned him for Exegesis and Homily, to be read at the next stated meeting. April 21st, 1824, he delivered the Exegesis and Homily, and was examined in Latin and Greek, the Sciences and Systematic Theology, "giving on all competent satisfaction." On April 19th, 1825, at a meeting held in the Warrior Run Church, he was, on application of the Lycoming Church, appointed to supply that church until the next stated meeting. On the 7th of October, 1825, at Milton, he accepted a call for his pastoral services from the Lycoming Church, at Newberry, on a salary of \$500, and he was installed November 23d, 1825. Rev. W. R. Smith, of Northumberland, preached the sermon, and Rev. J. H. Grier, of Jersey Shore, delivered the charge to the pastor, and Rev. John Bryson, of Warrior Run, to the people.

Dr. Painter represented the Presbytery of Northumberland in the General Assemblies of 1827, 1828 and 1832. He was then a very young man to have such high honors conferred on him. The pastoral relation existing between him and the Lycoming Church was dissolved April 20th, 1831, because the congregation failed to pay him enough out of his small salary to enable him to live. Between April, 1831, and March, 1834, he labored in the churches of White Deer, Warrior Run and Peniel, as stated supply.

In the fall of 1834 Dr. Painter made a trip to the western part of the State and Ohio, traveling alone in his sulky. He visited Hollidaysburg, Johnstown, Blairsville, Saltsburg and Freeport. He stopped with his friend, Rev. Samuel McFerren, D. D., of Congruity, Westmoreland County, for advice. He urged him to visit Kittanning. After visiting various places in Eastern Ohio, he returned and stopped at Kittanning, where he spent two Sabbaths and preached three times. He then returned home. On his arrival his wife was taken violently ill, the night following, and after lingering two weeks, died December 4th, 1833, leaving him with a family of four children, the eldest about six and one-half years old. She was buried in the cemetery at Warrior Run Church, where her tombstone may be seen.

In the meantime he received a call from the First Presbyterian Church of Kittanning, which he accepted and arrived there with his children the first week in April, 1834. His reasons for severing his pastoral relations with the Newberry Church incidentally appear in a correspondence between him and Dr. George Junkin. As a preacher and a pastor he was greatly beloved, the congregation was united and prosperous, but they neglected to pay him the salary which they had promised, and he could not live on promises. On the back of the call from the Lycoming Church, promising him \$500, the following endorsement was found:

October 1st, 1833. Due on this call, \$850, with interest.

Dr. Painter was duly installed as pastor of the Kittanning Church, November 14th, 1834, and entered upon his labors. Arrangements were made whereby he preached one-fourth of his time in Rural Valley. His church was a small log building; his pulpit, a dry goods box on end; his salary, \$80, payable in produce. He continued to preach here and at other places until the fall of 1840. Kittanning Church soon afterwards required all his time, and he labored there until age and increasing infirmity induced him, in December, 1863, to retire from the active duties of the pastorate.

On the 13th of February, 1839, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Ann, eldest daughter of Boyle Irvin, of Pittsburg. This happy relation was continued through his life.

Dr. Painter's attainments in literature were of a high order. Endowed by nature with a superior intellect, and being a close student all his life, he secured the first rank as a scholar in the ministry. His was no mere superficial knowledge, it was solid and substantial. Every discourse, whether extempore or delivered after careful preparation, discovered his ripe scholarship. He was eminently a social man and the life of company in which he mingled. As his age advanced deafness came upon him and rendered it hard for him to engage in conversation. In the summer of 1865 he met with an accident, by falling down stairs, which seriously injured him. In the winter of 1872 he was attacked by paralysis, and in May, 1873, he had a second attack, which caused his death on the 1st of June, 1873, in the 75th year of his age. He died greatly beloved by the people of Kittanning, among whom he had so long faithfully ministered. His son, Rev. H. M. Painter, and all the living members of his family, were present at the close.

## NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

ISAAC WILLOWER, father of W. W. Willower, of Lock Haven, was 98 years old on Sunday, January 22d, 1888. He resides in Hublersburg, Centre County, and is in the full possession of all his mental faculties. His friends earnestly unite in wishing that he may be permitted to round off a full century before he is called hence.

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## RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

MRS. MARY SMITH, of Towanda, died Christmas, 1887, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. P. Spalding, after an illness of five weeks, in the 90th year of her age. Deceased was born in Sheshequin, in 1798, and was the daughter of Colonel Joseph Kingsbury. Besides Mrs. Spalding, one other daughter, Mrs. P. P. Rogers, of Binghamton, survives her.

MRS. ANNA RINN, widow of Jacob Rinn, died at the residence of her son, Jacob Rinn, in Lock Haven, on the 20th of January, 1888. Her death occurred on the 81st anniversary of her birth, she having been born January 20th, 1807. Deceased left two sons, Jacob and Philip Rinn, and one daughter, Mrs. Christian Heineman.

HENRY HAAS, a well-known hotel keeper of the "olden time," died at his home in Sunbury, January 5th. 1888. He was born in the town where he died almost 80 years ago. His exact age was 79 years, 5 months and 8 days. Mr. Haas embarked in the hotel business in 1845, and kept the Washington House, in Sunbury, which stood on the site of the Neff House. After a few years he removed to Northumberland and kept a hotel which stood on the site of the present Methodist Church. He remained there ten years, when he removed to Kingston and managed a public house there for several years. He then returned to Northumberland and purchased the Washington House, but did not keep it. In 1863 he purchased the Central Hotel, in Sunbury, and conducted it until 1881, when he sold out. Under his management the house became very popular. Mr. Haas had many friends and acquaintances throughout the State.

MRS. MARGARET KRISE, who was, perhaps, the oldest woman in Pennsylvania, died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Henry McDade, of Portage Street, Gallitzin, on the evening of January 31st, 1888, aged 108 years. The deceased was born in County Donegal, Ireland, from whence she came to this country with her parents, William and Ellen Jorden, when she was eight years old. They settled near Philadelphia, where they remained about seven years, when they went to Cambria County and settled on the farm now owned by William McNellis, near St. Augustine. The deceased remained on the farm until she was nearly 22 years old, when she married Henry Krise and they went to live on a farm owned by him in the same neighborhood, which is now owned by Henry Kirkpatrick. Six children were born to them, four of whom are now living. They are Dr. John Krise, of Pittsburg; W. G. Krise, of Ashville, Cambria County; Mrs. Henry McDade, of Gallitzin, and Mrs. Margaret Delozier, of Altoona. Henry Krise, the husband of the deceased, died about twenty-one years ago, on the farm near St. Augustine, since which time she resided with her daughter, Mrs. Henry McDade, at whose home she died. It is estimated that she is survived by between ninety and one hundred children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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THE statement is made by the Muncy *Luminary* that Jacob Lilley, of Clinton Township, Lycoming County, now 83 years old, is the owner of a copy of Baer's Lancaster Almanac for every year of his life. The earlier copies of this favorite calendar came to him from his father, and they are all in the German language. It is probable that few men in this country are to be found who possess an almanac in an unbroken line for 83 years.

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THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL is anxious to receive a plan or drawing of Fort Muncy, if there is one in existence in the hands of any person. Any one having such a plan among their old papers, or possessing any knowledge regarding the old stockade, are respectfully asked to inform us. It is wanted for the purpose of making an engraving for the revised edition of the History of the West Branch Valley.

## TOMBSTONE RECORD.

In the upper Milton Cemetery, which is one of the most beautifully located in the West Branch Valley, many men of prominence are buried. On a recent visit to this charming "city of the dead" several inscriptions were copied from tablets of marble and granite, which are worthy of a place in these pages, and the following are given:

REV. WM. S. HALL, D. D. M. D.  
 Born at Blockley West Philadelphia, Pa  
 November 27th 1809  
 Died at White Deer Valley,  
 Union County, Pa.,  
 June 8, 1867  
 Aged 57 years, 6 months  
 and 11 days.

The sudden death of a well remembered minister, while in the line of his duty, is thus tersely but eloquently told in marble:

REV. JOHN H. RITTENHOUSE  
 Pastor of the  
 Church at Derry  
 and Washingtonville,  
 Died  
 While passing from his  
 Carriage to the Church  
 to preach the  
 Dedication Sermon at  
 Washingtonville, Nov. 9, 1853.  
 in the 39th year of his age.

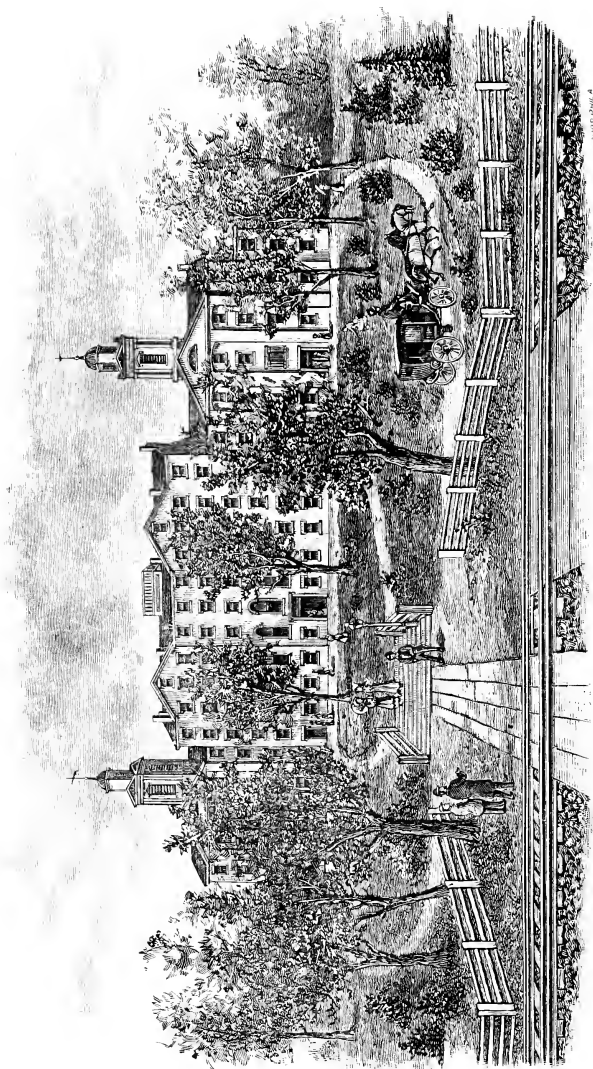
The parents of this distinguished Presbyterian divine lie by his side, and their tombstones bear the following plain inscriptions:

DAVID RITTENHOUSE  
 Who Died  
 Oct. 4th 1826  
 aged 50 years &  
 2 months.  


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 In memory of  
 SARAH H.  
 wife of  
 David Rittenhouse  
 Who Died Nov. 15th  
 1832  
 aged 54 years  
 8 months & 24 days.





WILLIAMSPORT, PENN. 4

Williamsport Dickinson Seminary.



# THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

A MONTHLY RECORD.

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## HISTORY

—OF—

### NORTHUMBERLAND PRESBYTERY.

BY REV. JOSEPH STEVENS, D. D.

THE SECOND CHURCH OF WILLIAMSPORT.—This church was organized on the 12th day of December, 1840. The organization took place in the same old stone church in which the first bench of elders of the First Church had been ordained in 1833. The Presbyterian Church, in the United States, was divided into New and Old School, in 1838. We have discussed the causes of division in another part of our narrative. The Second Church of Williamsport was organized as a New School Church by the Presbytery of Harrisburg. The Rev. J. W. Phillips was sent by the Presbytery to view the ground and effect an organization, if the way should be clear. The population of Williamsport, at this time, was less than 1,000, so there could have been no pressing need for two Presbyterian churches in the place. There was obviously some dissatisfaction in the First Church which led to the establishment of the Second Church. We shall not inquire what was the cause of disturbance. It appears from documents at hand, that in the summer of 1840 a number of Presbyterians residing in Williamsport, not members of the Presbyterian Church already existing there, secured from the County Commissioners the use of the Court House for a preaching place, and sent for ministers to come and preach to them. They wrote to New School parties in Philadelphia, and two

men were sent, the Rev. William Sterling and the Rev. Robert Adair, who preached on a number of consecutive evenings and awakened a good degree of religious interest among the people. After their return from Williamsport they reported their visit to the Synod of Pennsylvania, and John B. Hall, who had been an elder in the First Church, being present, was also heard on the situation of the people at Williamsport. Thereupon the Synod advised the Presbytery of Harrisburg to look after the case. Thus it came that the Rev. Mr. Phillips was sent to Williamsport to organize a New School Church. The church was organized with fifteen members, only one of whom, the document before us says, was a member of the First Church, and with three elders, viz.: John B. Hall, Nathaniel D. Eaton and Benjamin C. More. After the organization they adopted a short summary of doctrines, and covenant condensed from the Confession of Faith. The elders were ordained and installed, and the church put itself under the care of the Presbytery of Harrisburg. The congregation was encouraged by the reception of a considerable addition to its communicants within a few months after the organization, and on the 15th of February, 1841, called the Rev. James W. Phillips to be its pastor. They promised him a salary of \$700 a year. Mr. Phillips accepted this call, and returned to labor with the church, which was received under the care of the Presbytery of Harrisburg, at its spring meeting, 1841, and arrangements were made for Mr. Phillips' installation, which was soon after consummated. The congregation worshiped in the Court House for nearly three years, but began to prepare to build a house of worship as early as 1841, a lot for the purpose having been secured by John B. Hall, on the corner of Fourth and Market Streets.

The building of a church was a serious undertaking for the congregation, for they were yet few in number and possessed of little wealth; but they had great faith in God's favor on the enterprise, and they all had a mind to work, and so the church was eventually completed, and dedicated by the Rev. William Sterling on the 15th of October, 1843. In the meantime the revival had ceased and a financial panic had set in, one of those business crises which periodically afflict our country, and the little church became greatly embarrassed, not knowing where to look for help. But the providence of God raised them up three friends who came to their relief;

these were Joseph B. Anthony, a member of the bar of Lycoming County, and afterwards President Judge of the District; James Armstrong, also a member of the Lycoming bar, and afterwards a Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; and Robert Faries, superintendent of the construction of the West Branch Canal, and afterwards chief engineer in the construction of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad. These gentlemen took charge of the church building and carried it on to completion. In May, 1846, Mr. Phillips resigned the pastorate; and on September 15th, 1846, a unanimous call was made out for the services of the Rev. William Sterling, who agreed to accept it, if the congregation would remove the debt of about \$2,000 which stood against the church. This they promised to do, and Mr. Sterling assumed the pastoral oversight of the church on the 27th of September, 1846. By this time the membership had grown to ninety-six. The church had from its beginning received pecuniary aid from the "Philadelphia Agency of Home Missions" till 1851; from that date onward it has been self-sustaining, and at the present writing is one of the strongest and most liberal churches in the interior of the State. In 1856 the Synod of Pennsylvania (New School) held its annual meeting in this church, which seems to have been an event of much interest to the community. The church gradually increased in numbers and financial strength; in April, 1864, its membership was 188, and in June of that year the congregation vacated the church building, intending to enlarge and repair it; but the great flood in the West Branch, in March, 1865, which overflowed much of the city, as it did also the whole West Branch Valley, so injured the foundation of the building and damaged the material they had collected, that they determined to tear down the old building and erect, in its stead, a larger and more substantial edifice. A building committee was appointed, consisting of the Hon. William H. Armstrong, president; Abram Updegraff, John B. Hall and Elias S. Stone, who at once proceeded with the undertaking.

In the meantime the congregation worshiped in the Court House for nearly two years and a half; when, on the 23d of January, 1867, the new building was dedicated; the Rev. J. J. Porter, of Watertown, N. Y., preached the dedication sermon by invitation. The congregation left the old building with 188 communicants, and

entered the new building with 328. This large increase seems to have resulted from a revival which developed itself under the ministrations of the famous evangelist, the Rev. E. P. Hammond, and became general throughout the city in 1866.

The new building being completed, a new organ was placed in it at a cost of \$3,000, and the edifice was beautifully and substantially furnished throughout. The whole cost of the structure, with the organ and furniture complete, was \$66,500. On the day of dedication there was an unpaid balance against the church of \$35,000; a subscription was taken up amounting to \$35,510. This, however, as is usually the case with such subscriptions, was from various causes not all paid, and the church was encumbered with a debt of about \$12,000 until February, 1876, when it was cleared off.

In 1868 this church dismissed thirty-three members to the newly formed Congregational Church in the upper part of the city; and in May, 1869, it dismissed twelve members to form the Third Presbyterian Church in the same neighborhood. It assisted the Third Church in the purchase of its lot and the erection of its edifice, to the amount of \$6,000, according to the statement of John B. Hall, the worthy elder to whom we are indebted for the most of our information touching this church.

In 1871, after these dismissals to the two churches, as mentioned above, the membership of this church was 280, having dismissed this same year, it should be noted, sixteen members to go into the Presbyterian organization at Montoursville. On April 2d, 1871, Mr. Sterling gave the congregation notice, at the close of service, of his intention to resign his pastorate, which purpose was in due time consummated. It should be recorded to the credit of this congregation, and as a commendation of the consideration and genuine Christian spirit of this people, that after hearing the farewell sermon of Mr. Sterling, a congregational meeting was immediately called and a resolution passed commendatory of his labors as their pastor for twenty-four years and a half, and it was also resolved to pay him \$500 annually for three years. How refreshing is this in contrast with the cold and heartless turning off of an aged pastor who has worn out his life in self-denying labors for a congregation, as an old horse is sometimes turned out to die of exposure when he can be of service no longer. Such cases have occurred even in the Presbytery of Northumberland.

In 1870 the Presbytery of Harrisburg and the Synod of Pennsylvania ceased to exist, as a consequence of the reunion of the New and Old School Churches consummated in 1869. The Presbyteries and Synods of the Presbyterian Church in the United States were all reformed, and this church was thrown into the Presbytery of Northumberland, and the Synod of Harrisburg. In August, 1871, the Rev. H. W. Brown, of Burdett, N. Y., was called to this church at a salary of \$2,500. Mr. Brown would not consent to be installed over the church on account of deafness, which proved a great inconvenience to him; but he continued to serve the congregation with entire satisfaction as stated supply till the fall of 1883, when he retired to the great regret of many of the people. He is an excellent man, and an earnest, faithful, useful minister of Christ.

This church has adopted both the envelope system of taking collections and the rotary eldership system, and reports them as working well. In the early part of 1884, the Rev. David Winters, the present occupant of the pulpit, was called to this church and installed soon after. He is an able minister of the New Testament, and with such a congregation of earnest workers, and faithful, praying Christians to hold up his hands, has an encouraging future before him. The liberality of this church to the benevolent objects of the General Assembly, taken in the aggregate, exceeds that of any church in the Presbytery.

**THE THIRD CHURCH OF WILLIAMSPORT.**—This church was formed as a mission church, under the auspices of the Second Church, in 1869. The Second Church dismissed twelve members to form it, and contributed largely to the erection of its edifice. It has had for its pastors, the Rev. A. D. Hawn, now of Delaware, Ohio; Rev. John Burrows, and the Rev. Adolos Allen, the present occupant of the pulpit. It had a small beginning, but has gradually and steadily advanced till now it is self-sustaining. It owns a beautiful, though small, church building, with Sabbath School room, and a commodious brick parsonage contiguous to the church. Its Sabbath School has always been large, and an interesting feature of its work. It has accomplished a good work for that part of the city in which it is located, and with the continued growth of the city, in that vicinity, may confidently look forward to a large increase in the near future.

MUNCY CHURCH.—The origin and date of the organization of this church seem involved in inextricable confusion. We find it mentioned in the same record with Derry, in the record book of the Presbytery of Carlisle, as if it had been organized by the Presbytery of Donegal. We find no mention of it on the records of the Presbytery of Northumberland till 1827, when D. M. Barber was ordered to spend three or four weeks in missionary work on Muncy and Loyalsoek Creeks. He was then a licentiate of this Presbytery, and missionated at various points in its territory. The Muncy Manor was surveyed in 1768, and belonged to the proprietaries of Pennsylvania. In 1776 this manor was divided into several farms and sold to settlers. It might be that, even at this early date or soon after, some Presbyterian families settled there. But we find only the one mention of Muncy in the old minutes running from 1811 to 1833. Meginness tells us, in his *Otzinachson*, that the town of Muncy was commenced on the Muncy Manor, by Benjamin McCarty in 1797, and was called Pennsboro, which name it bore till it was incorporated in 1826. And in October of 1829 the Rev. John Patterson was ordered by Presbytery to spend two or three weeks at Pennsboro, at his discretion as to the time. After this date supplies were regularly appointed for Pennsboro as though it was an organized church. Although its title was changed from Pennsboro to Muncy by the act of incorporation in 1826, it is not surprising that it continued to be called by its old name; we still hear it called Pennsboro by some of the old inhabitants. The Presbyterian Church edifice was erected in 1834. The Muncy Church was feeble and needed to be nursed and nurtured by Presbyterial care till within a recent date. It has, however, become self-sustaining, and owns a neat and attractive house of worship, and a commodious brick parsonage, with ample grounds. It provides an unusually comfortable residence for its pastor, and surrounds him with an air of comfort and quietude very favorable to a studious and contemplative life. This church has not grown in numbers to the extent to which its surroundings would seem to warrant expectation. The additions to its membership, from year to year, are very small; while it has often been distracted by internal troubles. It has had many pastors, and some of them were excellent and able men. Some trees grow very slowly; their growth can hardly be discerned, except in a series of years; but it is said they live longer

than other trees, and flourish in old age. Muncy is a sprightly, growing community; there is material enough there, apart from the other denominations that occupy the ground, to make a strong and influential Presbyterian Church; perhaps human wisdom and divine grace will, at some future time, become so combined in the Presbyterian elements of its population as to foster the old tree into abundant fruitfulness.

WATSONTOWN CHURCH.—This church was organized June 16th, 1872. It is one of the younger daughters of the Presbytery, and has had a fair growth under very favorable circumstances. Watson-town is of recent origin; it commenced its career as a business place under the fostering patronage of that well-known capitalist. Ario Pardee, and for a few years increased in population with remarkable rapidity. The site which it occupies belonged to, and the town took its name from, the family of David Watson, who, in his day, was an active man of affairs in that neighborhood. The family was of the old Presbyterian stock, and Mr. Watson, with his family, was identified with the Warrior Run Church, within whose original territory this whole region was included. As the town grew and business avenues were opened up, several Presbyterian families from the surrounding country moved in, and some from other places; as soon as a sufficient nucleus for an organization was formed the Presbytery constituted the church, which has moved forward with success, though it has not been exempt from the internal troubles and the general discouragements usual with newly organized Presbyterian churches. This church is self-sustaining, owns a neat and substantial brick church edifice, has an intelligent congregation composed largely of young families, and maintains a thrifty and useful Sabbath School. It has usually been connected with some neighboring congregation in the support of a pastor, especially with Warrior Run, which may properly be called its mother. It has had several pastors; the present incumbent is George L. Van Alen, a young man of much promise who is doing a good work there. This church has a promising field, and should feel encouraged to press onward with energy. Under wise and prudent management it may at no distant day represent the strength and influence of Presbyterianism hitherto represented by the surrounding country churches, which are now declining.

**McEWENSVILLE CHURCH.**—This church was organized in 1842. It sprang up in the midst of the Warrior Run congregation, from what causes we do not know, and drew its material from that church. It was organized under the name or title of Bethel Church. The Rev. John P. Hudson was its first pastor, who at the same time conducted a classical school. It was always feeble, and could only maintain a pastor in connection with neighboring congregations. After some years of struggle for existence it yielded to its fate, and returned to the fellowship from which it had separated.

**THE MIFFLINBURG CHURCH.**—This church was organized, or more properly, was received by the Presbytery, October 17th, 1827. It had been under the care of the Second Associate Presbytery of Philadelphia, which, from some cause not known to us, became extinct about this time. This church was originally organized of families who came out of the Buffalo Church on account of the introduction of Watts' hymns, or the hymns adopted by the Presbyterian Church. They were the Psalm-singers who held to Rouse's version as the only allowable composition for singing in the worship of God. It would appear that their zeal on this subject had greatly abated in the course of time. They still cleave together as an organized church, and continue to hold on there way as the church of Mifflinburg. In the course of time the Buffalo Church transferred its services, for a part of the time, to Mifflinburg, and soon serious trouble arose between the two churches as interfering with each other's services. As early as 1829 the matter was carried to Presbytery on complaint of the Mifflinburg Church, and Mr. Hood, pastor of Buffalo Church, and Mr. Kirkpatrick, supply of the Mifflinburg Church, were ordered to so arrange the time of their services as to avoid two Presbyterian services at the same hour. Several times afterwards similar complaints were brought to Presbytery by the Mifflinburg Church. In 1868 the matter came up in such a way that the Presbytery gave it a full and patient hearing, the result of which was that the Rev. Isaac Grier, then pastor of the Buffalo Church, was enjoined to cease preaching, and administering the communion in the town of Mifflinburg, except by the consent of the Mifflinburg Church, and this church was recommended to give Mr. Grier the use of its edifice for his ministrations to his people living in and around Mifflinburg when they did not need it for their own



services. From this action Mr. Grier appealed to the Synod of Philadelphia. The Synod appointed a commission to hear and settle the case. Their decision was to be final. This was an innovation in the procedure of a Presbyterian Church Court in the United States, and could not have stood the test of review by the General Assembly. The commission reversed the decision of the Presbytery and authorized Mr. Grier to preach and administer the communion in Mifflinburg without restriction.\*

Mr. Grier continued to preach in this little town, occupying sometimes the school house and sometimes the Reformed or Lutheran church, till the people of his charge erected a church building there a short time before his death. About the time the Buffalo people began to prepare to build in the town, the Mifflinburg building was crushed down by a heavy snow storm, and they went lustily into the work of rebuilding. Thus two new and substantial brick churches were erected the same year in a town of a few hundred inhabitants, where either one would be amply sufficient to accommodate all the Presbyterian worshippers. The extravagance and waste of this is obvious; it is a sacrifice to prejudice not warranted by the teachings of the New Testament or commended by sound policy. Both these church buildings are now occupied by pastors, young and well trained men, capable of making their influence felt for God if each had a clear field to labor in. The Mifflinburg Church has maintained the ministrations of the gospel by uniting with other churches in the vicinity; its connection at the present time is with Hartleton. Various attempts have been made by the Presbytery to unite these two churches into one strong and self-sustaining charge; but thus far the antagonism has been found too strong for such a result.

**HARTLETON CHURCH.**—This church was organized in 1843. It is located in a small village, on ground originally included in the territory of the old Buffalo Church. It has always been small and feeble, and has been from its origin more or less helped by the Board of Home Missions. It is located in a region where it cannot, perhaps, for a long time to come hope to acquire much strength, yet where its work and influence are needed. It has done a good work, and the Church at large has been the gainer by supporting

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\*See Presbyterial minutes of 1868, and minutes of Synod of Philadelphia, 1868.

it. It has recently erected a neat and attractive little brick edifice for itself, having hitherto worshiped in a rather antiquated union building. It supports the ministrations of the gospel by uniting with Mifflinburg.

NEW BERLIN CHURCH.—This church was organized in 1841. Like all the churches in Buffalo Valley and its near vicinity, its field was included in the territory belonging to the old Buffalo Church. The town of New Berlin was the county town of Union County until that county was divided in 1855, when Lewisburg became the county town. Hence when this church was organized it had an important field to cultivate. Several prominent lawyers of the place became members of it, among whom were the Hon. Mr. Slenker, once Auditor of the State; Mr. Merrill, Mr. Swineford, and others. In those days the church made reasonable progress and was regarded as a desirable charge. It never, however, attained to much strength, and when the seat of justice was removed to Lewisburg the town and the church ran down together. Since that date the church has been growing weaker year by year, till at the present time it is reduced to almost nothing. It united with Mifflinburg and Hartleton in supporting the ministrations of the gospel under the pastorate of the late George Thompson, afterwards Dr. Thompson, of Academia, and the pastorate of the late lamented James D. Reardon; but when the latter resigned it united with Buffalo, under the pastorate of the late Dr. Isaac Grier, or rather was supplied by him; in this connection it still remains under his successor, the Rev. William K. Foster. Its future is not promising. The town occupies a charming site, and the church building is a creditable one. If railroads should tap the place and business enterprises should spring up there, the town and the church will rise together, and this beautiful spot will ring with the hum of industry and the songs of Zion.

THE CHURCH OF LEWISBURG.—This church was organized in 1833. "At this date a colony from the church at Buffalo X Roads was organized in the name of the Lewisburg Presbyterian Church, and the same year a brick chapel was erected on the north-west corner of Front and St. Louis Streets."\* In 1856 a large and sub-

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\*Meginness' History of the West Branch Valley.

stantial brick church was erected on ground occupied formerly by the English grave-yard, on Market Street. The late Rev. P. B. Marr was the first pastor; he was succeeded by the Rev. James Clark, D. D., in 1852. Since Dr. Clark's pastorate this church has often changed its pastors. Among those who have occupied its pulpit, as pastors, are the Rev. Benjamin Jones, now professor in Lincoln University, and Henry L. Dickson, D. D., recently deceased, neither of whom remained very long. The present pastor is the Rev. John B. Grier, grandson of the Rev. Isaac Grier, one of the original constituent members of the Presbytery. Though this church has been afflicted by a frequent change of pastors, it has steadily advanced, not perhaps in proportion to the increase of the population of the town, but it has gained in strength and influence, and financial ability. It reports a gain of a little more than sixty members in twenty years; it owns a very substantial and well equipped church edifice, and a commodious parsonage contiguous to the church building. The population of the town is now, perhaps, more than double of what it was twenty years ago. The Baptist denomination have here a flourishing institution of learning, formerly called the Lewisburg, now the Bucknell University, which, while it affords the population excellent facilities for educating the youth of both sexes, is not promotive of the growth of Presbyterianism.

THE MILTON CHURCH.—This church was organized on the 3d of December, 1811. The town of Milton was incorporated into a borough in February, 1817. In the first year of its existence as an incorporated borough a serious disaster overtook it in what was supposed to be the bursting of a water spout in its close vicinity, occasioning what is known as the Limestone Run flood, which wrought great damage to the town. To repair this damage the Legislature of the State voted a donation of \$5,000, and the inhabitants had to be heavily taxed.\* Water and fire seem to have been its natural foes. Previously to the organization of the church the Presbyterians of the place were identified with the Chillisquaque or Warrior Run churches, under the pastoral care of the Rev. John Bryson, who held it as an out-post of his charge, preaching there in a log school house at such times as were convenient. We learn from the old minutes of the Presbytery, that when application was

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\* Meginness' History of the West Branch Valley.

made for the organization of a church there, a strong remonstrance was presented against it by certain parties, the grounds of which are not stated. The organization, however, was granted and consummated. This application for organization had been made to the Presbytery of Huntingdon the year before the Presbytery of Northumberland was set off, but was laid over till the ensuing year, and hence fell to the heirship of the new Presbytery. In 1810 the Rev. Mr. Hood, then pastor of Buffalo and Washington, commenced to preach at Milton as a stated supply, Mr. Bryson having withdrawn a year or two before. He preached in an Episcopal church, then the only church edifice in the town, and by the consent of Mr. Bryson, in the limits of whose charge the place was included.\* As early as April, 1811, when the Presbytery of Huntingdon met at Buffalo, a call for the pastoral services of Mr. Hood by the people of Milton and vicinity was presented, but could not be put into his hands for the obvious reason that there was no church there and the territory lay within Mr. Bryson's charge. In 1812, after the formation of the Presbytery of Northumberland and the organization of the church at Milton, this call was renewed and accepted by Mr. Hood for one-fourth of his time, and he was installed on October 12th of that year. On the 20th of April, 1819, Mr. Hood resigned his pastorate of Washington and became the pastor of the Milton Church for the half of his time. During this year, 1819, the Harmony Church edifice was completed. It had been commenced in 1817, by a union of the German Reformed, the English Presbyterians and the German Lutherans, each pledging \$2,000, which was estimated to be sufficient to erect a suitable edifice for them to worship in by turns. When the building was finished it was found the money collected was not sufficient to meet its cost, and the balance was assessed on the three parties equally. The Presbyterians failed to raise their portion and were finally sued for it, and their right and title sold by the sheriff. They were thus left houseless; they then rented the use of the Baptist house of worship† for about three years, when they returned to Harmony for one year, and in 1837-8 built themselves a new brick church on Front Street, which was eventually torn down, and in 1856 a neat and commodious brick edifice was erected in its stead,

\* Dr. James C. Watson, minutes of Presbytery.

† Old minutes. Dr. Watson's Centennial Sermon.

which remained till the great fire on May 14, 1880, destroyed it. In April, 1835, Mr. Hood resigned the pastorate, and from that time till November, 1838, the church was without a pastor. It was during this vacancy that the congregation initiated and completed the new church edifice, which was dedicated by the Revs. D. J. Waller and D. M. Barber, the former preaching the sermon and the latter offering the prayer. In October, 1838, the Rev. James Williamson, then pastor of the Silver's Spring Church, Presbytery of Carlisle, was called to the pastorate. The congregation was incorporated by the Court of Common Pleas of Northumberland County in April, 1845. Mr. Williamson resigned in 1845, and was succeeded by the Rev. David Longmore in September, 1846, a member of the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia. Mr. Longmore, afterwards Dr. Longmore, resigned in April, 1854, and in September of the same year the congregation presented a call to the late Rev. James C. Watson, D. D. The call was accepted by Dr. Watson, and he was installed in December, 1854.\* Through all these years the church made steady progress in numbers, and all the elements of strength, receiving its increase chiefly from the old surrounding country churches, many of whose families moved into Milton, either to enter into business or to spend the remnant of their days in retirement. The great fire, one of the most destructive of modern times, consumed the church building erected in 1856-7, and scattered the congregation, and for a time their surroundings were extremely discouraging. But in a short time the town rallied from the disaster, rising, like the Phoenix of story, out of its ashes; the scattered population returned, and the work of rebuilding commenced on a vast scale. In the meantime Dr. Watson resigned, but died before Presbytery had acted on his resignation, much lamented by his numerous friends. The congregation had already commenced the erection of an elegant and substantial stone edifice, which it soon completed in excellent taste; a pastor, in the person of the Rev. S. H. Bell, was called and installed, and the losses of the church in numbers have at this date, 1887, been almost recovered. Having been tried by fire, may the church find itself purified, and do better work for the Master in the future than it has done in the past.

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\* Minutes of Presbytery. Dr. Watson's Centennial Sermon.

**HOLLAND RUN CHURCH.**—This church, according to the old minutes of the Presbytery, was set off from the Sunbury Church in June, 1828. It seems to have been, through almost all its existence, supplied by appointees of the Presbytery when it has had preaching. We do not find that it ever had a pastor installed over it till within a few years ago, when the late Rev. J. D. Reardon, whose sudden death is so deeply lamented by all his brethren of the Presbytery, took charge of it in that capacity for a part of his time. For many years it made no report to Presbytery, and seemed to be fast on its way to dissolution and final burial. But Mr. Reardon seemed to be sent to them as an angel of mercy; under his faithful labors they seemed to awake out of their long sleep and to become somewhat revived. He was gradually lifting them up to an improved Christian life. He had cared for these people years before, when he was pastor at Sunbury, and was thoroughly acquainted with their case. Now that the under-shepherd has been taken from them they will be sorely tried. May the Chief Shepherd continue to lead them into the green pastures and beside the still waters. They, at this date, 1887, report fifty communicants and seventy members in the Sabbath School; their contributions to benevolent objects are very meagre.

**CENTRALIA CHURCH.**—This church was organized in 1871. It is located in a mining district, is small and feeble, and so situated that it cannot be regularly supplied with gospel ministrations. It has usually been connected with Elysburg Church in the support of a pastor or supply, and has been aided by the Board of Home Missions. It no longer appears on the roll of this Presbytery, having been transferred to the Lehigh Presbytery.

**ELYSBURG CHURCH.**—This church was organized in 1851. It is located in a small village some miles from Danville, on the opposite side of the North Branch of the Susquehanna. Its congregation was drawn from the old Shamokin or Rush Church. It has always been small and feeble, and supported in part by missionary aid. It is now supplied by the Rev. William R. Mather, a part of his time.

**SHAMOKIN CHURCH.**—The date of the organization of this church we have not been able to find. It is the mother of the Elysburg Church and is almost as weak as Elysburg, though it has about

twice as many communicants. Its organization may date back as far as that of the oldest churches of this section of the Presbytery. It is sometimes called the Rush Church, from the name of the township in which it is located. Many years ago it was a large congregation, but has declined to great feebleness. The soil of this region is poor and unremunerative to those who cultivate it; not such as Presbyterians take to in these modern days.

MAHONING CHURCH.—The date of the organization of this church, like that of all the original constituent churches of this Presbytery, is involved in uncertainty. Its present pastor, the Rev. R. L. Stewart, in his pamphlet containing "commemorative services and historical discourses, 1785–1885," places the date of its organization as early as 1785; it might have been earlier than that, for the land on which the town of Danville is located was surveyed in 1769, and settlers began to find their way into that region before, or about the time the Revolutionary war broke out. The missionaries who were sent to look after the spiritual interests of the people in these frontier regions, were usually authorized to organize churches wherever they found a sufficient number of people who were willing to be formed into a church; at the same time the children of all who wished it, whether they were professing Christians or not, were baptized. This is still the practice in some of the frontier settlements. Less than forty years ago the Synod of Mississippi sent the Rev. Daniel Baker, D. D., on several itinerancies through the thinly settled regions of the South-west with such authority, who reported the organization of many churches and the baptism of scores of children, very few of which were ever again heard of. In after years, if circumstances favored their growth, some of these organizations would come into notice and be reported on the rolls of the respective Presbyteries that had a claim to them. The date assigned by Mr. Stewart to the organization of the Mahoning Church may be accepted as correct. In 1786 two itinerants, the Revs. Messrs. Wilson and Linn, were sent through this region, and each was instructed to preach one Sabbath at Mahoning. This is the first mention of preaching appointments for Mahoning we have yet found. At the first session of the newly organized Presbytery of Carlisle, the Rev. Hugh Morrison is appointed to supply Mahoning on the first Sabbath of December. In 1790 the Rev. John

Bryson was called to the united charge of Chillisquaque and Warrior Run, and he preached occasionally at Mahoning till a pastor was secured. The town of Danville was laid out in 1792, by Daniel Montgomery, a son of the Gen. William Montgomery who in 1776 erected a log house on its site and brought his family there, but soon returned to Chester County, whence he came, on account of the hostility of the Indians. The town grew slowly and afforded small encouragement to the church to undertake the responsible task of supporting a pastor. But in 1796 they united with Derry and called the Rev. Mr. Woods, offering him a salary of \$75.00 a year, and Elders Jacob Gearheart and William Montgomery were appointed to make the necessary arrangements with Derry. Mr. Woods, however, declined the call and the church still remained without a pastor.

In 1794 the Presbytery of Huntingdon was formed out of the northern portion of the Presbytery of Carlisle; and this church, together with all the territory now within the limits of the Presbytery of Northumberland, came under the ecclesiastical control of this new organization. From this time onward the Mahoning Church appears regularly on the roll of Presbytery, but it was not till 1798 that it succeeded in obtaining a pastor. In that year the Rev. John B. Patterson was sent with the Rev. Asa Dunham, by the General Assembly, on a missionary trip through this section of country as far as Lake Erie. By the advice of the Rev. Mr. Bryson, Mr. Patterson was induced to visit Derry and Mahoning churches; these churches soon united in calling him to be their pastor, and in 1799 he arrived at Mahoning and entered on his work. The first church edifice erected by this congregation was a log structure, which served as a house of worship for forty years. This was built about 1790; previous to this the church had worshiped in General Montgomery's home, and in his barn when the house was too small for the congregation. It was characteristic of the primitive church buildings, erected at this early period, that no provision was made in them for heating in cold weather. The services usually continued through the most of the day; a two hours' service in the morning with an interval at noon to eat a lunch, then another long service before the people departed to their homes. It argues very hardy constitutions, and hearts glowing with religious devotion when we



read of these early congregations spending so many hours, often in the coldest weather, without a coal of fire to mitigate the severity of their exposure. In the course of time various primitive expedients were resorted to, in the way of foot-warmers and other arrangements, to relieve the chill of frosty weather till, at length, stoves were introduced. Communion occasions, which occurred once or, at most, twice a year, were times of great interest; the people gathered in from great distances, often from neighboring congregations, to celebrate the ordinance. They sat at tables prepared for the purpose in imitation of our Lord and his Apostles, and each communicant was required to exhibit a token as an evidence of fitness to participate in the holy sacrament. The Monday following communion was always observed as a day of divine service; it was then people were received into the church and the children were baptized. Eye-witnesses have described these scenes, which have faded out of the view of the present generation, as most interesting and touching. They seemed like the assemblages of the tribes of Israel with their little ones when they came together to renew their covenant with the Lord.

Under Mr. Patterson's ministry the church grew steadily, keeping pace with the increase of population. When he commenced his pastorate there were thirty-seven recognized communicants; when he concluded his pastorate, in the spring of 1832, the reported number of communicants was 180. He is reported to have baptized 150 infants in one year in his united charge, and in five years, from 1825 to 1830, he baptized 323 infants. At this period the population of the town and vicinity made rapid advance under the impulse of business enterprises, which now began to develop themselves. Mr. Patterson, as was usually the case with Presbyterian ministers having country charges in those days, conducted a classical school at his home, in which a number of young men received their preparatory education for the ministry; among these was the William B. Montgomery represented, in Part II. of this narrative, as having been ordained in 1821 to go on a mission under the direction of the United Foreign Missionary Society. He was sent to the Osage Indians, among whom he wrought a good work. He was a son of this (Mahoning) Church; and it is gratifying to read the following account of him in the "Centennial Commemorative

Services and Historical Discourses" of the present pastor of that church, the Rev. R. L. Stewart, to which we are indebted for much of our information touching this congregation. It is there said of Mr. Montgomery :

After a perilous journey of about four months he reached the station to which he was assigned, near Fort Gibson, and entered upon his work. His faithful wife, formerly Miss Jane Robinson, died a few months after her arrival in the Indian territory. In this chosen field Mr. Montgomery labored with many encouraging tokens of success, for more than thirty years. He was stricken down suddenly with Asiatic cholera and died, like a good soldier of Jesus Christ, with the harness on and at his post.

The Rev. Mr. Patterson served this united charge of Mahoning and Derry for about thirty-one years. The Mahoning part of the charge, which had prospered without interruption from the beginning of his ministry, had now become able to support a pastor all his time. Would they not call the old veteran to that honor and uphold his hands till the Great Master should say: "Well done, good and faithful servant, come up higher?" This would have been a true and beautiful exponent of the gospel which they had received from his faithful lips: this would have been consistent with the theory of Presbyterianism; this was the desert of the man. But gray hairs had crowned the old man's head; they were honorable indeed, for they were found in the way of righteousness. But there is a generation that will not receive the gospel from lips that speak from under this crown of glory, though they speak never so wisely. They called a young man to share the charge with the venerable father, not as an assistant, which would have been proper enough, and perhaps agreeable to the old pastor, but on equal terms for the one-half of the time not hitherto occupied. No wonder the venerable Patterson resigned the next year, and the young man, Mr. Dunlap, was allowed to have the sole pastorate. The gray hairs were out of the way now. Mr. Patterson resigned on the 17th of April, 1832, but continued his pastorate at Derry till his death in 1843. Mr. Dunlap served the church, as pastor, for nearly six years. He seems to have been a worthy and successful servant of Christ to this people. He was called to the Second Church of Pittsburg, where he died greatly lamented. He was succeeded in the Mahoning Church by the Rev. David Halliday, D. D. He was called February 12th, 1838, and soon after entered on his work as a licentiate,

but was not ordained and installed till the 25th of April. He was pastor for about five years and a half. During his pastorate the Synod of Philadelphia met in the edifice of this church, which seems to have been an event remembered with interest. This pastorate was well sustained and useful. Mr. Halliday resigned on account of ill health, and was afterwards called and installed over the Presbyterian Church at Peekskill, on the Hudson, where he spent about twenty-four years. He died at Princeton, New Jersey, whither he retired by reason of impaired health. He was succeeded by the Rev. J. W. Yeomans, D. D., after a vacancy of about two years. Dr. Yeomans was installed on the 11th of January, 1846. This ministry was very successful. Dr. Yeomans was esteemed one of the ablest men in the Presbyterian Church in the United States. He was a man of noble presence, of splendid attainments and culture, and of extended influence. Few preachers excelled him in pulpit attractiveness, and in social qualities he was the equal of any. His mental force and his high attainments were known and admitted throughout the Church; he had been president of Lafayette College at a time in its history when it required the highest order of administrative ability, and was equal to the exigency; he was made Moderator of the General Assembly in 1860, of which assembly the writer was a member, and a witness of and participant in the struggle that resulted in his election to the Moderatorship; and it was admitted on all hands that a better Moderator never occupied the chair. During all that excited meeting, when the Southern members were there with their peculiar notions, and their anti-Northern schemes respecting the boards of the Church, and determined, if possible, to accomplish their ends, not a single appeal was taken from any of his rulings. At the time Dr. Yeomans was called to the Mahoning Church the business of Danville was very prosperous, and continued so during the most of his pastorate; the church prospered in sympathy with the town, and in 1850 attained the highest number of communicants—325. It was now thought needful to change the locality of the church, which was situated on one side of the town, and that the less populous side, somewhat difficult of access to the majority of the congregation and so inconvenient for night services that another building had to be rented or kept up for that purpose. Accordingly a movement was set in motion to build a new and more modern

structure, and in 1853 the spacious and substantial building now occupied by the congregation was commenced, and was finished the ensuing year, and dedicated on the 16th of November. The sermon on this occasion, the dedication, was preached by the late distinguished Rev. William Plumer, D. D. The pastorate of Dr. Yeomans extended over a period of more than eighteen years, and was in all respects a prosperous one. He died on the 22d of June, 1863, and was buried in the old grave-yard where the dead of the church were buried from its origin. His funeral was attended by a large concourse of friends, who sincerely mourned the departure of a great and good man. Two of Dr. Yeomans' sons, Edward and Alfred, became ministers of the gospel; the former died comparatively young in the midst of a very promising career of life; the other is the successful pastor of the church in Orange, New Jersey, in the service of which his elder brother died. The successor of Dr. Yeomans was the Rev. William E. Ijams; he was ordained and installed on May 2d, 1865, and continued pastor a little short of two years and a half. The next pastor was the Rev. Alexander B. Jack, a Scotchman of many eccentricities and brilliant pulpit powers. Mr. Jack entered on his work in January, 1869, but was not installed till April 21st. He continued in the pastorate till June 28th, 1874. It was during his ministry that the Manse was built at a cost of over \$10,000. The Rev. Thomas R. Beeber followed Mr. Jack. He was called in June and took charge of the congregation on the 4th of July, 1875, but was not installed till the 27th of October. In the first year of Mr. Beeber's pastorate a revival of some magnitude occurred in the church, which resulted in an addition of fifty-seven converts to the communion roll. This pastorate closed on the 20th of April, 1880, when Mr. Beeber left to take a pastorate in Scranton, Presbytery of Lackawanna. In the same year the present zealous pastor was called and assumed the labors and duties of the pastorate. Under his ministry the church has continued to prosper, and is not likely to suffer from the want of wise, prayerful and judicious leadership, or the efficient administration of the gospel. All the departments of church work are kept up with spirit; while the missionary department, in the hands of the devout women, is a model of efficiency.

THE GROVE CHURCH.—This church was organized August 31st, 1855, under the name and title of "Mahoning North Church," which

was afterwards changed by Presbytery, at the request of the congregation, to "Grove Church." While the congregation seems to have cordially approved the movement to remove, as the Mahoning Church, to a more central and convenient locality, and subscribed liberally to the erection of the new building, there were some who thought the time had come when another Presbyterian Church could be sustained in Danville with advantage to the cause of Christ; and that the old church building, with its beautiful surroundings and hallowed associations, afforded an inviting opportunity to begin such an effort. Accordingly those of the old congregation who lived on the north side of the town, and in the country contiguous to it, made application for an organization as above stated. This effort to start a new church seems to have been regarded with favor by the adherents of the old church; there was no jarring or opposition developed between the two parties; indeed it was generally admitted another church was needed, and the present circumstances were favorable to such an enterprise. The old church edifice in the Grove was refitted and Charles J. Collins was called as the first pastor. He was ordained and installed December 31st, 1856. A substantial parsonage was soon after erected on grounds contiguous to the church edifice, and the new enterprise entered on its career fully equipped. In the course of a few years the old church building was taken down and a splendid and costly stone structure, in Gothic style, was erected in its stead. Since Mr. Collins left this congregation it has had several pastors; the present pastor is the Rev. James M. Simonton, who seems to be doing a good and successful work here. This church reports a present membership of 187, and a Sabbath School of 200 members, with a commendable record of benevolent contributions.

SHAMOKIN FIRST CHURCH.—This church was organized April 15th, 1845, under the name and title of the "Shamokintown Church." It commenced its career with fifteen members and three elders, viz.: Solomon Egbert, Daniel Evert and Alexander Caldwell. It is now designated on the minutes of Presbytery, Shamokin First Church. The late Rev. J. J. Hamilton was appointed its stated supply at the time of its organization; he had preached in the place before as a supply sent by the Presbytery, and was probably the means of gathering the congregation and preparing it for organization. Mr.

Hamilton continued to supply the pulpit of this newly organized church as long as he remained in the Northumberland Presbytery; he also built them a school house at his own expense, which the church and the community used for many years, and may be regarded as the pioneer of education, as well as the father of the Presbyterian Church there. Shamokintown is situated on Shamokin Creek, about fourteen miles from Sunbury, where the creek empties into the Susquehanna. It is in the midst of a very extensive and productive coal field, and has in recent times increased rapidly in population, and in the scope of its business operations. For many years the church was small and feeble, was irregularly supplied with the means of grace, and required constant missionary aid; but of late years it has gradually grown in numbers, and is now self-sustaining. It has a substantial church edifice, a large and thrifty Sabbath School, and seems to carry itself along with spirit and success. This whole section of country was included in the territory covered by the old Shamokin Church, of which a brief account will be found in the preceding pages. This church has, within the last few years, grown to be, numerically, one of the largest in the Presbytery. It reports a membership of 314, and contributions to all the benevolent objects of the General Assembly, save one. The present successful pastor is the Rev. James W. Gilillan, whose ministry among this people has had an encouraging beginning.

There are to be found on the records of Presbytery the dates of the organization of several churches which have either ceased to exist or been transferred to other Presbyteries. Among these are Catawissa, organized May 6th, 1846; Chatham Run, organized with thirty-five members from Pine Creek, now Jersey Shore, and Great Island, 1844; Gordonsville, Nippenose and others, which are hardly of sufficient interest to warrant attention.

We have now completed our account of the churches of the Presbytery, and with this our task closes. Other Presbyteries which have larger and more populous fields may be able to show greater numerical results; but few within the whole range of the General Assembly's jurisdiction can exhibit better results in proportion to the material at command. Material results depend largely upon the amount of material employed; it would be interesting, and a source of profitable knowledge, to bring into contrast, if that were

possible, the statistical tables of the decade last past with those of the first decade of its history; but that is impossible from the non-existence of early statistics.

It may be said the Presbytery has established a good reputation for itself throughout the Church; it has made a good record at home and abroad; its sons have gone out into the home and foreign fields well equipped to grapple with the great questions of the day, and have acquitted themselves to the approbation of the well-wishers of the Church and of the human race; and it is hoped to the approval of the Divine Master. It has passed through trying scenes, and faced some formidable difficulties; but has always met its responsibilities with manly courage, and proved itself equal to the emergencies with which the providence of God required it to deal. It has insisted on a high standard of morals, both among its ministerial members and its churches, and has not flinched from enforcing discipline on either when occasion required it. In one particular it, perhaps, has failed of a wise policy; it has not improved its opportunity, nor maintained its just rights, nor fully met its responsibility with respect to the educational interests of the Church, or of the community under its supervision. It may be said the Presbytery of Northumberland had a pre-emption right to control the educational interests of the territory which it covers; it was the first ecclesiastical body established on this territory; the population was largely, for many years almost exclusively, Presbyterian, and a very large proportion of the wealth of the region has always been in Presbyterian hands; yet no efficient effort has ever been made to establish a strictly Presbyterian school by the Presbytery. Efforts have several times been made, but as often failed, to establish a Presbyterian institution in which the youth of Presbyterian families could be educated amid a Presbyterian atmosphere and Presbyterian surroundings; while Methodists, and Baptists, and Lutherans have planted in this territory large and influential institutions of their own peculiar type, and Presbyterians have liberally helped them in this effort. In the distant future this mistaken policy, or rather I should say, this indifference to the permanent interests of the denomination will be realized first in the weakening of the vital force of Presbyterianism, and then in the decline of numbers. The day is now upon us when education not only makes the man, but also

the Church that fosters it; and surely there never was a period in the history of the country when education, strictly and thoroughly religious in its character, was so imperatively required by existing circumstances. Those who wisely push forward institutions of this sort will be the winners in the end.

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#### ERRATA.

On page 270, where reference is made to the appointment of Judge Grier by "Andrew Jackson," read James K. Polk.

"Rev. John B. Rendall," on page 349, should read Rev. Isaac N. Rendall.

For James "McCormic," on page 351, read McCormick.

Page 352, for Rev. "G. G." Shedden, read S. S. Shedden.

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#### CLOSE OF THE VOLUME—THE FUTURE.

With this number the first volume of *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL* ends and the contract with our patrons expires. The year has passed very pleasantly and a few words at the close will not be out of place. Many of the patrons of the monthly have taken a deep interest in its success, and we have been the recipient of many words of encouragement, which we appreciate highly. But at the same time *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL* has brought no pecuniary reward to its publisher for his labor. In fact he finds himself slightly behind at the close of the volume. But as a hundred or more full sets are still on hand, it is possible that in the course of time he may sell enough bound volumes to make up the deficiency. As a general rule, writing and publishing local history is purely a "labor of love." It rarely pays. On an average, scarcely one in fifty appreciates such literature. But it is a source of satisfaction, nevertheless, to receive the warm thanks as well as substantial support of that one for what has been done.

It is very different in England. There is scarcely a county or large town that does not have one or more magazines devoted to local history and the genealogy of families. Every incident is carefully put on record as the years roll away, so that those who follow know the history of their ancestors and the times in which they lived. To the credit of our own people it must be stated, however, that the taste for local history is slowly growing, and the time may come when, under the benign rays of education, coupled with the refining influences of a higher civilization, there may be as



much of a desire for home history here as that possessed by our cousins on the other side of the Atlantic.

As to the future. Yielding to the urgent solicitations of more than a hundred valued friends—whose letters are on file—we have made arrangements to publish a revised edition of the History of the West Branch Valley in monthly parts, and the first number will be issued about the middle of April. It is thirty-two years since the work was first published, and copies are now rare and hard to obtain. In the revised edition it is proposed, besides correcting errors, to introduce much new matter, thereby greatly enhancing the value of the book. The region embraced in the history begins about Shamokin and ends with the Sinnemahoning Valley. All the quaint documents in the old work will be reproduced and several new ones of great value introduced. Many important points in our local history have developed since the publication of the first work, which will receive careful attention. At the close there will be a review of the present condition of the valley, showing the improvements and progress that have been made since the time of its first settlement. And if there is sufficient encouragement from those whose ancestors bore a conspicuous part in the settlement of the valley, or in later years attained to distinction in civil or military life, there may be a carefully prepared biographical department, with fine portraits of the subjects.

No pecuniary reward worth speaking of is expected to result from the enterprise; indeed the publisher will consider himself lucky if he receives enough patronage to pay the cost of publication, unless enough friends who take a sufficiently deep interest in the preservation of our local history come to his aid.

The work, which will be elegantly printed from new type and on good paper, will take the place of *THE HISTORICAL JOURNAL* for a year. Each monthly part will consist of forty or more pages, and when completed will make a handsome book of fully 500 pages, with a carefully prepared index. A limited edition of not more than 800 copies will be printed, and as no agents will be employed, those desiring the work are requested to order it from the publisher direct. The price will be \$3, payable in advance, and the monthly parts will be mailed to subscribers free of postage. When the number printed is exhausted the work will be out of print. Those desiring copies are therefore advised to order them at once.

## THE WARRIOR RUN RIFLES—WAR OF 1812.

Appended is a copy of the muster roll of the Warrior Run Rifle Volunteer Company, which was commanded by Captain William McGuire, in October, 1814. The original roll was recently found among some old papers at Watsontown, Northumberland County :

Wm. McGuire, Captain.	33. Wm. Vanlieu,
Jacob Shirtz, Lieutenant.	34. James Watson,
Andrew Ferguson, Ensign.	35. James Hamilton,
1. Wm. McKinney,	36. Robert Kidder,
2. Daniel Eyres,	37. James Bryson,
3. Thomas McCormick,	38. David Graham,
4. Joseph Mackey,	39. Robert Forster,
5. Thomas Cornwell,	40. James Donley,
6. George Gray,	41. Henry Wolfinger,
7. John Watt,	42. James Watt,
8. David Reid,	43. Abraham Gross,
9. Samuel Clark,	44. Clark C. Stewart,
10. Robert Bryson,	45. James Kirk,
11. John McKinley,	46. Joseph Welsh,
12. Andrew Reid,	47. John McKinney,
13. John Parks,	48. John Murray,
14. John Cornwell,	49. Kerr Russell,
15. Joseph McGuire,	50. John Hart,
16. John Shannon,	51. <i>Adam Hart,*</i>
17. James McKinney,	52. Carlton Irvin,
18. Mathew Curry,	53. Robert McCarter,
19. James A. Scott,	54. Robert Gaston,
20. John Burrows,	55. John Vincent,
21. Wm. Davis,	56. Wm. Barnett,
22. John Lunger,	57. Thomas Tanner,
23. Ezekiel Lunger,	58. John Campbell,
24. Abraham Lunger,	59. Wm. Tweed,
25. John Tweed,	60. Andrew Irwin,
26. Henry Reader,	61. John Bailick,
27. George Reader,	62. John Hill,
28. John Summons,	63. Wm. Brittain,
29. James Beard,	64. Charles Egner,
30. Wm. Cathcart,	65. Robert McKinley,
31. John Stadden,	66. Samuel Allison.
32. John Smith,	

As the company returned from Buffalo.

WM. MCGUIRE, Captain.

\*The only member of the company known to be living at the present time is Adam Hart, of Black Hole Valley, Lycoming County, who will be *one hundred years old* on the 6th of May, 1888. He is the father of ex-State Senator W. W. Hart, of Williamsport, and is in the enjoyment of good health at the present time.

†To COL. JAMES MOODIE:

We volunteered as a part of the quota of militia. We consider that we have discharged our duty, but are willing to submit to the lawful Decision of our Country.

WM. MCGUIRE.

2d Brigade, 9 division and 123 Regiment, P. M.

I do Certify that this is a true copy of the Return made to me. Witness my hand

JAMES MOODIE

Milton October 28th 1814

Lt. Col. of the 123 Regt.

There are two of the within named who have discharges, to wit:

Robert Gaston

William Barnet

The above and within is a true Copy—

ISAAC POST

Montrose, Nov. 1st 1814

Brigade Inspector 2d B. 8th Division P. M.

The foregoing is a true copy of the original Roll, &c., placed in my hands by Capt. Wm. McGuire in his life-time, about March, 1855.

A. J. GUFFY.

To understand the above address to Colonel Moodie, the circumstances are stated as follows (see address marked †):

The company, after about three months' service at Black Rock, near Buffalo, New York, left without leave and returned to their homes. Soon after the return the company was court-martialed at Danville, Pa. The sentence of the court-martial was, that the company should proceed at once to Marcus Hook and serve out the term of enlistment. The company now, in obedience to the sentence of the court-martial (some new men having taken the places of a few of the old members), started from Danville. Some of the men in wagons and some on rafts reached Northumberland, where they met the news that peace was declared, which was doubtless welcome, for the company formed and marched in solid rank from Northumberland to Milton. A committee was there appointed to go to Danville and draw the pay for the whole company; this committee went to Danville and drew the pay for twelve days' service.

A. J. GUFFY.

WATSONTOWN, February 13, 1888.

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DR. W. H. EGGLE, State Librarian, is preparing an article on "Dead Towns" in Pennsylvania, viz.: Asylum, Beulah and Pit Hole. He would be glad to hear from those having any information relating to them.

## POSTMASTERS OF SUNBURY.

Although Sunbury was laid out in July, 1772, it did not have a postoffice until January 1, 1797. A postoffice was opened at Northumberland April 1, 1796, almost a year earlier than the one at Sunbury. The latter was incorporated as a borough on the 24th of March, 1797. A transcript from the official records of the Department at Washington shows the appointment of postmasters at Sunbury, from the beginning to the present time, to be as follows:

Robert Gray.....	Appointed Jan. 1, 1797.
John Weitzell.....	" Oct. 1, 1798.
Solomon Markley.....	" July 1, 1802.
Lewis Dewart.....	" July 1, 1806.
Edward Gobin.....	" Oct. 1, 1816.
Thomas Painter.....	" May 14, 1822.
Samuel J. Packer.....	" Dec. 9, 1822.
John G. Martin.....	" Feb. 12, 1824.
" " " .....	Re-appointed April 1, 1825.
Rachel B. Packer.....	Appointed March 27, 1835.
John Youngman.....	" March 5, 1855.
Martin E. Bucher.....	" Dec. 15, 1856.
George M. Renn.....	" March 19, 1861.
Jonathan M. Bostian.....	" April 26, 1864.
" " " .....	Re-appointed March 2, 1867.
John J. Smith.....	Appointed April 19, 1871.
" " " .....	Re-appointed April 13, 1875.
" " " .....	" Jan. 29, 1885.
Jacob Rohrbach.....	Appointed May 5, 1881.
J. E. Eichholtz.....	" Feb. 10, 1886.

Rachel B. Packer held the office longer than any other appointee. She served twenty years. Previous to her appointment Lewis Dewart had held it for ten years, and John J. Smith, of a later date, served fourteen years.

## POSTMASTERS OF JERSEY SHORE.

A postoffice was opened at Jersey Shore, Lycoming County, Pa., April 1, 1806, over six years after the opening of the office at Williamsport. The following transcript from the records of the Postoffice Department, Washington, gives the date of the appointment of each postmaster from the beginning to the present time :

Thomas McClintock.....	Appointed April 1, 1806.
" " .....	Re-appointed Jan. 11, 1819.

Samuel Donnel.....	Appointed March 8, 1819.
Mathew McReynolds.....	" April 22, 1823.
Samuel Humes.....	" Nov. 17, 1828.
Stephen Winchester.....	" Feb. 8, 1833.
William Babb.....	" May 21, 1837.
Joseph B. Torbert.....	" April 2, 1844.
Samuel Maffet.....	" Oct. 11, 1845.
James S. Allen.....	" Dec. 30, 1847.
Samuel G. Allen.....	" May 17, 1848.
Solomon Gudykunst.....	" Nov. 13, 1849.
Robert Baker.....	" Dec. 16, 1852.
Thomas Calvert, Jr.....	" Dec. 13, 1855.
Thomas Stevenson.....	" Dec. 15, 1862.
James Jones.....	" Sept. 30, 1864.
Abraham S. Crist.....	" Aug. 29, 1866.
James Jones.....	" April 2, 1869.
Robert Grier.....	" June 5, 1871.
" ".....	Re-appointed Dec. 18, 1874.
John E. Potter.....	Appointed Oct. 13, 1876.
" ".....	Re-appointed Jan. 15, 1884.
Charles H. Pott.....	Appointed Dec. 21, 1887.

Postmaster McClintock held the office for about thirteen years, the longest of any one of the appointees. Captain Potter comes next in length of service. He held the office about eleven years. Thomas Calvert, Jr., held it seven years.

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### NEARING THE END OF A CENTURY.

SUSAN EATON, mother of Mrs. Charles Kreamer, of Lock Haven, celebrated the 89th anniversary of her birth on the 28th of February, 1888. She was born in Lewiston, Maine, February 28, 1799. Her father served in the war of 1775 and also in the war of 1812. and died at the advanced age of 88 years. Grandmother Eaton was the mother of eight children, the grandmother of fourteen and the great-grandmother of three. Her mind is as clear and active as a woman of 40. In chronicling the anniversary of this remarkable old lady, the Lock Haven *Express* says her memory is wonderful, and she can recall incidents which occurred in life when she was five years old. She has been a member of the Methodist Church for seventy-four years.

## RIPE SHEAVES GATHERED BY THE REAPER.

MICHAEL QUIGLEY, ESQ., the subject of this notice, was born at Youngwomanstown, Clinton County, September 6, 1807. He married Roseanna Richy, daughter of Edward Richy, an old and well-known citizen. His ancestors on his father's side originally came from the North of Ireland and immigrated in 1689 to Holland, from whence they came to this country about the year 1734, and settled in Lancaster County. His mother was a Baird, whose people came from Scotland and settled in New Jersey. Michael Quigley, the grandfather of our subject, moved from Lancaster County afterward to Wayne Township, Clinton County, where he bought a large tract of land lying on the river bottom. John Quigley, the second son, married Tabitha Baird and moved to what was then known as the "Youngwomanstown Farm," or Thomas Robinson survey, patented and signed by Benjamin Franklin, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, and dated 1785. Here Michael, the subject of this sketch, was born and continued to live until the day of his death, which occurred February 16, 1888, at the age of 81 years, 5 months and 10 days.

He was an active, industrious man, of very strong will, and was looked up to by nearly everybody for counsel in matters of variance between neighbors, and many business difficulties were adjusted without going to the higher courts. He was appointed Justice of the Peace by Governor George Wolf in 1830 at the age of 23, being the first commissioned justice on the West Branch west of Lock Haven. He was continuously re-elected until the day of his demise, having had 58 years of service in the same district. During this time he married over 150 couples.

About the year 1841 he joined the Baptist Church under the ministrations of Rev. J. Green Miles, and continued a consistent member of that denomination until 1860, when he connected himself with the Presbyterian Church, where he continued to be a member until the time of his death. He leaves a family of seven children, three sons and four daughters. He was one of the most active and energetic men of his time—of strong and thorough convictions, but kind and benevolent to a fault. Two brothers and four sisters survive him, viz.: Mrs. Mary Welch, of Lock Haven; Mrs. Frances Q. Allen, of Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Tabitha Baird, of Liberty;

Mrs. C. C. Sanderson *nee* Maltby, of Quincy, Illinois; William B. Quigley, of St. Louis, and Hon. A. J. Quigley, of Williamsport.

JAMES HAMMOND McCORMICK, who died at his home in Milton on the 14th of February, 1888, was born in White Deer Valley, Lycoming County, February 3, 1811, and was consequently 77 years and 11 days old. After attaining his manhood he settled at Muncy, where, in 1845, he married Miss Mary Langdon. Two years previous to his marriage, however, he had removed to Milton and engaged in the saddlery business, which he followed for many years. Mr. McCormick when young developed a fondness for politics, and was through life an earnest advocate of Democratic principles. He was a recognized power in the ranks of his party and his counsels were often sought by the leaders. His judgment was excellent and he seldom erred in his conclusions as to political results. He held a number of offices by appointment. He was postmaster of Milton, twice deputy United States Marshal, and three times deputy sheriff of Northumberland County, having served under ex-Sheriffs Strine, Weaver and Kremer, the latter of whom is a Republican. He was just closing up the business of Sheriff Kremer's administration in December when he was taken ill. It is believed that the exacting duties incident to his position hastened his death. The long drives and exposures had much to do with breaking down his physical condition, and on account of his age he had not sufficient recuperative power to rally. In all trusts committed to him he discharged his duties with the strictest fidelity, coupled with an intelligence and business-like manner that commanded the respect of men of all parties. Shortly before his death he remarked to a friend by his bedside: "I want no eulogy; all I want my friends to say is that I lived and died a Christian."

Mr. McCormick has one brother living, Robert H. McCormick, Esq., of Watontown. Seth T. McCormick, Esq., who died in Williamsport several years ago, was also a brother. Deceased was an uncle of H. C. McCormick, now representing the Sixteenth district in Congress. A wife and six children, one son and five daughters, survive him.

MRS. ELEANOR BLACKWELL died at her home in Jersey Shore, February 14, 1888, aged 88 years, lacking 9 days. This venerable lady was born at Towanda, Bradford County, February 23, 1800,

and at the age of one year her parents moved to Granville, in the same county, where they lived until she grew to womanhood. September 23, 1819, she married Nathaniel Blackwell, and soon after they took up their residence on a farm jointly owned by her husband and his brother-in-law, John Blackwell, who had married his eldest sister. The farm was located at Roaring Branch, Lyecoming County. Mr. Blackwell afterwards traded his interest in the farm to his brother-in-law for a tract of land in the "English Settlement," which was then a wilderness, and wild beasts abounded. After living there four or five years they moved to Alba, near Canton, where they lived about a year, when they moved to a farm on the river owned by Hon. John A. Gamble, near Jersey Shore. This was in the spring of 1828. The same farm is now owned and occupied by Thomas Blackwell, a son. They remained on this farm for fourteen years, when they removed over the river to a farm in Nippenose Township, known as the "Knox farm," which had belonged to the Stewart estate, and was purchased by Mr. Gamble. Here they lived for fourteen years. During the twenty-eight years they farmed for Mr. Gamble the closest friendship existed between owner and tenant.

Mrs. Blackwell was the mother of ten children, nine sons and one daughter, six of whom survive her, including the daughter. At the time of her death "Mother" Blackwell was the oldest resident of Jersey Shore, and one of the last of the pioneer women of the Pine Creek region. She had a large experience of the hardships and privations of frontier life in the old "English Settlement," where several years of her newly married life were passed. Her entire life was one of quiet, multiplied devotion to her family and to the Baptist Church, of which from early years she was a pious and devoted member.

JOHN DELONG died at his home in Sugar Valley, Sunday, February 26, 1888, aged about 96 years. He was a remarkably active man for his years, having been engaged during the summer of 1887 as a traveling agent for the sale of agricultural implements. His remains were taken to Brush Valley for interment. At the time of his death it was claimed that he was the oldest man in Clinton County.



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